

BANGKOK TO VIENTIANE – 15 DAYS

EXPERIENCE THE BEST OF THAILAND AND LAOS ON THIS EXCITING 15-DAY JOURNEY. YOU'LL VISIT VIBRANT CITIES AND ANCIENT CAPITALS, WAR-TIME MEMORIALS AND GLEAMING TEMPLES, TRAVEL THROUGH THE JUNGLE, RIDE ON ELEPHANT BACK AND LEARN THE WONDERS OF LAOTIAN CUISINE.



THAILAND
uncovered

HIGHLIGHTS

Spending time exploring the vibrant capital of Thailand – Bangkok, visit the bridge over the river Kwai and Kanchanaburi, the Ancient capital at Ayutthaya and the northern cities of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, take a cruise along the Mekong into Laos and visit the towns of Luang Prabang, Vang Vieng and Vientiane.

Detail:	Itinerary:
Day 1:	Arrive in Bangkok. Transfer to Hotel Arrive Bangkok Airport. After customs and immigration formalities you will be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free for you to begin exploring this fascinating city. Overnight: Bangkok hotel Extras: N/A Meals: N/A
Day 2:	Bangkok City Tour Your Thailand trip begins this morning with a fully guided tour of the fascinating city of Bangkok. Starting at Wat Pho we visit the Golden Palace and the Reclining Buddha before enjoying a tour along the city's old waterways as we discover the secrets of ancient Siam hidden away amongst today's high-tech and bustling Bangkok. You'll also have the opportunity to visit China Town and the Flower Market today. The evening is free for you to sample the famous Bangkok nightlife. Overnight: Bangkok hotel Extras: N/A Meals: Breakfast
Day 3:	Kanchanaburi Leaving Bangkok this morning we travel to the historic town of Kanchanaburi. Originally founded to protect Thailand from the Burmese the area is known today for being the site of the famous Bridge over the River Kwai. Occupied by Japanese troops during WWII the bridge and subsequent railway line was built by allied prisoners of war. Travelling by train along the bridge we will also visit the Allied War Cemetery and the local museum. Tonight, learn more about the culture of Thailand as we sleep in a traditional homestay. Overnight: Kanchanaburi homestay Extras: N/A Meals: Breakfast
Day 4:	Kanchanaburi, Ayutthaya, overnight to Chiang Mai We depart Kanchanaburi this morning for the short trip to the former Siam capital of Ayutthaya. Now a UNESCO world heritage site the city flourished between the 14th and 18th centuries and is home to many ancient temples and Palaces. This evening we board the overnight train to Chiang Mai. Overnight: Overnight sleeper train Extras: N/A Meals: Breakfast
Day 5:	Arrive in Chiang Mai and begin tour After arriving by sleeper train this morning we begin our tours to visit some of the beautiful and historic Buddhist Wats (temples) that give Chiang Mai its character, the tour will include a visit to Doi Suthep temple, where on a clear day you will be rewarded with amazing views over Chiang Mai. In the evening, explore the busy Night Bazaar, where you can try out your bartering skills. Overnight: Chiang Mai hotel Extras: N/A Meals: N/A
Day 6:	Drive to Chiang Rai After breakfast at your hotel we head east through beautiful mountainous landscapes to the quiet and scenic mountain city of Chiang Rai. In the evening, you'll have time to explore the town and be sure to visit the Night Market where you can sample an array of freshly prepared Thai Cuisine. Overnight: Chiang Rai hotel

Extras: N/A
Meals: Breakfast

Day 7: Cross into Laos. Mekong cruise to Pakbeng

You'll cross the border into Laos today for a boat cruise along the Mekong to Pakbeng. During the day you'll stop for a picnic lunch on the riverbank and then visit a village of the Yao or Lu tribes along the way. The evening is free.

Overnight: Mekong cruise

Extras: N/A

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 8: Continue cruising. Drive to Luang Prabang

This morning, visit Pakbeng market, which is the favoured location for the local villagers to come and exchange their goods. After visiting the market, the second leg of your cruise begins which will take you to Pak Ou Village, located at the mouth of the Nam Ou River. Whilst here you'll visit the Tam Ting Caves, which contain over a thousand images of the Buddha. Your journey today ends in Luang Prabang a UNESCO World Heritage site. In the evening you have free time to begin exploring Luang Prabang.

Overnight: Luang Prabang hotel

Extras: N/A

Meals: Breakfast

Day 9: Guided tour of Luang Prabang

You have a guided tour of Luang Prabang today. The city is nestled in a beautiful setting surrounded by lush mountains, this sacred city offers endless opportunities for sightseeing. Today you will visit a number of different Wats and other interesting sites. In the afternoon you will have some free time to begin exploring further on your own.

Overnight: Luang Prabang hotel

Extras: N/A

Meals: Breakfast

Day 10: Optional Alms giving. Visit Kuang Si Waterfalls

This morning you will have the option of starting early to take part in the traditional Lao Rite of giving alms to the monks. Each morning, around 300 monks walk through the streets to silently collect offerings. After breakfast in your hotel you will travel to the stunning Kuang Si Waterfall. You'll see the falls cascading over numerous calcified tiers and down several hundred feet into a series of turquoise pools. If you feel like cooling off you can take a swim before we return to Luang Prabang. A local lunch is included before returning to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free.

Overnight: Luang Prabang hotel

Extras: N/A

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11: Luang Prabang Cookery School

Today you will learn the secrets of delicious Laotian cuisine. You'll be guided by the cookery school chef to visit the vibrant Phosy Market to purchase fresh ingredients. After returning to the school you'll cook fabulous dishes under a sunroof in the garden, before enjoying the dishes you prepared.

Overnight: Luang Prabang

Extras: N/A

Meals: Breakfast, lunch

Day 12: Drive to Vang Vieng

Today you have a 6-hour picturesque drive to Vang Vieng, where you'll have stunning views around almost every turn. In the afternoon you'll have plenty of free time to relax on the scenic banks of the Song River or explore the lovely town.

Overnight: Vang Vieng hotel

Extras: N/A

Meals: Breakfast

Day 13: Free day in Vang Vieng

You have a free day in Vang Vieng today to explore at your leisure. You'll have options to go inner-tubing, kayaking, caving or even just relax and take in the beautiful views.

Overnight: Vang Vieng hotel

Extras: N/A

Meals: Breakfast

Day 14: Drive to Vientiane and Tour

Today begins with a three hour drive to Vientiane. After arriving you'll visit Wat Sisaket, which has thousands of miniature Buddha statues which you will see. Today you'll also visit many other interesting sites and monuments.

Overnight: Vientiane hotel

Extras: N/A

Meals: Breakfast

Day 15: Transfer to airport for departure

Your have free time in Vientiane until we transfer you to the airport for departure.

Overnight: None

Extras: N/A

Meals: Breakfast

INCLUSIONS

- ✓ 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 for sites mentioned in the itinerary
- ✓ Meals as indicated in the itinerary

EXCLUSIONS

- ✗ International Flights
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- ✗ Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- ✗ Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (eg. laundry)
- ✗ Tips for tour leaders and guides
- ✗ Any other items not mentioned above

THAILAND & LAOS NOTES:

WHY CHOOSE THAILAND UNCOVERED IN THAILAND & LAOS?

- ✓ Best locally trained guides
- ✓ 6 years experience operating tours in South East Asia
- ✓ 24/7 airport transfers
- ✓ Every booking contributes to local projects
- ✓ All entrance fees included
- ✓ Extensions available on all tours
- ✓ Smiles guaranteed!

EXTRAS

To go with our set tour itineraries, we offer a range of extras that you can add on if you wish. All accommodation based options (eg. Single supplement, extra nights) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may be arranged while you are in Thailand and Laos. Full details of current prices are given on our website.

Single room supplement

This option guarantees you a single room in hotels throughout the tour. If you are a single traveller who would like to share, let us know and we will see if we can pair you up. If we don't have anyone to pair you up with when you book, we'll add this option on, but remove it or refund you when we can pair you up later. Check with us for guaranteed no single supplement offers on some tours and departures.

Extra days

These are available on request in Bangkok and Vientiane before and after the main tour. We will aim to use the same hotel as the rest of the tour, but this will be subject to availability in the hotel. If you wish, you may book a hotel at a higher or lower level than that used on the tour. In this case, we can offer a transfer to/from the tour hotel for a small charge (paid locally). Prices include a night in the hotel, breakfast, all taxes and your airport transfer. Single room supplements apply.

ACCOMMODATION

Our standard rating is based on good quality, comfortable hotels around the 3 and 4-star level. Most will have swimming pools and more than one restaurant and bar. Our cultural adventure tours that feature jungle trekking around Chiang Mai, or homestays in

Vietnam will, by necessity, include some more basic accommodation. This level of tour is suitable for anyone interested in a good balance of comfort and value for money.

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.

TRANSFERS

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

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to book your flights for you, and our ATOL (UK flight sales license) covers all holidays booked together with a flight from the UK.

Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from. Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included whether you book your flights independently or through us.

TOUR LEADERS/GUIDES

For this tour we provide fully trained, local English-speaking Thai and Laos guides for all the sightseeing tours. Our website prices are based on using different guides in different parts of Thailand and Laos. We do not generally send our guides with you to the beach resorts, where most optional activities are arranged either through your hotel/resort, or our local reps. If you would like the same guide to escort you throughout the whole tour we can certainly arrange this, but there will be an extra cost.

Our local reps in all the towns and cities en-route are also at your service.

To help support the local people and economy, and also because we know it works best for you, our policy at Thailand Uncovered is to use only local guides and tour leaders. Please check our website for further details.

ENTRANCE FEES

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. You will need to cover the cost of entrance to any other extra sites that you may wish to visit.

TIPPING

Tipping is common practice in Thailand and Laos, as a sign of appreciation for services provided. You may therefore wish to tip your guide and driver at the end of the tour. You should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. We are often asked to provide a guide however, and can suggest that approx. £5 per person per day would be appropriate.

DATES & PRICES

We can run the tour privately for you on any dates or customise the itinerary to make a tailor-made tour to fit your personal requirements.

Please contact our knowledgeable sales staff for more help on creating the right tour for you.

HEALTH

For up to date health information & vaccination requirements for Thailand and Laos we recommend that you contact your GP or a travel clinic (1st Contact travel clinic gives free advice tel. 0800 0393073).

General vaccination recommendations include Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Malaria, Polio, TB, Tetanus & Typhoid. Malaria exists all year round in rural (particularly forest and hilly) areas throughout the country mainly away from the coastal areas.

VISAS

Thailand:

30-day visas are issued to most foreign nationals free of charge on arrival into the country. Some exceptions are New Zealanders, Swedes, Danes and South Koreans who can stay for up to 90 days. You can extend your visa (for a fee) at most travel agencies throughout the country. Business and work visas need to be applied for in advance and will incur a fee.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the appropriate visa to enter Thailand if one is required.

Laos:

15-day visas are available for most foreign nationals and cost US\$30. These are available on arrival into Vientiane International airport or when crossing into Laos from Thailand, either at the friendship bridge land border or even when crossing over from northern Thailand into Huay Xai. Longer 30 day tourist visas and business visas can be arranged prior to departure either in your home country or by using an agency in one of the neighbouring countries although this will incur a fee.

When leaving the country by air there is a US\$10 departure tax payable at the airport.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the appropriate visa to enter Laos if one is required.

HOW TO BOOK

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website. We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking and payment. You can also contact us on 0800 088 6002 or by email at:

tours@uncovertheworld.com

FINANCIAL SECURITY

We are a UK registered company and you can be confident when booking with us that your money is safe and protected.

If you book a flight departing from the UK from us with your tour then your entire package is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is 10467.

Additional financial protection is also provided through International Passenger Protection for passengers not booking flights.

Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

FOLLOW US ONLINE

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

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