

# South Thailand Explorer from only £470pp\*

11 DAYS / SMALL GROUP OR PRIVATE TOUR / ECONOMY TOUR /



Ask anyone what comes to mind when you say Thailand and they will probably say sun, sea and sand - and lots of it! Well if that's what you are looking for then this tour will certainly suit you. The island paradises of Ko Samui and Ko Tao make an excellent base for swimming, scuba diving, snorkelling or just lazing about in the sun. Add to this time in the bustling capital Bangkok and a stop at the beautiful Khao Sok National Park - with its spectacular limestone cliffs, water falls and jungle scenery - and you have the perfect southern Thailand experience.



**Regular small-group departures run all year round. Call or check the website for dates and prices. Private and tailor-made options are also available on request.**

*Please refer to page 3 or website for details.*

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Bangkok sightseeing, Floating market, Khao Sok National Park, Ko Tao Island paradise.

**FLIGHT BOOKINGS AVAILABLE**

*See page 4 for details*

**FLIGHTS INCLUDED:\***  
X

**LOCAL PAYMENT:**  
X

**ENTRANCE FEES:**  
X

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS:**  
X

### TOUR FACTS

<b>Tour Code &amp; Class:</b>	MATHSE / Economy
<b>Group Size &amp; Age:</b>	Min. - 1 Max. - 12 / Min. age - 12
<b>Activity - Adventure:</b>	Sightseeing
<b>Activity Level:</b>	Low
<b>Accommodation:</b>	6 nights in hotels (tourist class), 2 nights in jungle lodge, 2 nights on sleeper train,
<b>Transport:</b>	Minibus, 2nd class A/C sleeper train, local bus, ferry
<b>Meals:</b>	8 Breakfasts (B)

### YOUR 11 DAY TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Arrive in Bangkok (optional airport transfer).
- Day 2:** Bangkok - Walking tour, overnight train to Surat Thani.
- Day 3:** Khao Sok Park - Free time.
- Day 4:** Khao Sok Park - Free time.
- Day 5:** Transfer by ferry to Ko Samui.
- Day 6:** Ko Samui - Free time.
- Day 7:** Transfer by ferry to Ko Tao.
- Day 8:** Ko Tao - Free time.
- Day 9:** Ko Tao - Free time.
- Day 10:** Overnight train to Bangkok.
- Day 11:** Arrive in Bangkok - Free time. Tour ends (optional airport transfer).

*"Would you like to extend this tour to take in North Thailand? ...then check out our 24-day Thailand Explorer tour"*

**To book visit: [www.thailand-uncovered.com](http://www.thailand-uncovered.com),  
email: [tours@thailand-uncovered.com](mailto:tours@thailand-uncovered.com) or call us on: +44 (0) 845 130 48 49  
Please quote Tour Code: MATHSE when booking**

\* LAND ONLY PRICE, FLIGHT QUOTES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. / LAST AMENDED 26/06/2008 /

# South Thailand Explorer continued...



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## DETAILED ITINERARY

### DAY 1 / ARRIVE IN BANGKOK

The tour starts today when you check into to our initial hotel in Bangkok (airport transfers are available on request). In the early evening our Thailand Uncovered rep welcomes you and provides you with some useful tips for exploring the area and holds a group meeting where we would like you to give your local leader an idea of some of the things you would like to see and do on your tour tomorrow.

*Overnight at hotel in Bangkok.*

### DAY 1 EXTRA OPTIONS

**Arrival airport transfer**

*See page 3 for details*

### DAY 2 / BANGKOK, WALKING TOUR, TRAIN TO SURAT THANI

Today we start your trip with a walking tour of the city. The aim is to ensure that you see as much as possible of the everyday life of Bangkok and its people, by various means, and what better way to do that than to combine your walk with as many different modes of public transport as possible. Stops on the tour will normally include some interesting temples, a flower market, Chinatown and Little India. As it is you who will choose where to go no entrance fees are included in the program. In the evening we board the train for the overnight journey to Surat Thani, staying in second-class air-conditioned sleeping berths.

*Overnight on train to Surat Thani (B).*

### DAY 3 / SURAT THANI, TRANSFER TO KHAO SOK

We arrive in Surat Thani in the morning. After some time to get some breakfast at a local coffee shop near the station, we take a public bus to Khao Sok National Park. We'll arrive at the park at around noon and it is then for you to choose what you would like

to explore. The park comprises 656 sq. km. of dense rainforest with waterfalls, limestone cliffs, numerous streams, an island-studded lake, and many riverside walking trails. Don't forget that the park entrance fee is not included in the tour price as your accommodation is just outside the park perimeter.

*Overnight at lodge in Khao Sok.*

### DAY 4 / KHAO SOK, FREE TIME

Options today include lazing around your simple forest huts near the banks of the Sok River or choosing one of the various trails to go in search of signs of wildlife, including elephants, serow, banteng, gaur or dusky langur, as well as a multitude of bird species. Talk to your local guide and see which option best suits your fitness and budget.

*Overnight at lodge in Khao Sok (B).*

### DAY 5 / TRANSFER TO KO SAMUI

After an early breakfast we take the public bus to Surat Thani to connect with the ferry to Ko Samui. You will have a good afternoon just to relax on the beach after the journey.

*Overnight at hotel on Ko Samui (B).*

### DAY 6 / KO SAMUI, FREE TIME

We leave today completely free for you to enjoy your time on this beautiful island. There are many optional activities available, including various sightseeing tours, snorkelling and scuba-diving trips, or you can just relax on the beach and soak up the sun. Exploring the island by scooter is a good option and many great restaurants and bars await you in the evening.

*Overnight at hotel on Ko Samui (B).*

### DAY 6 EXTRA OPTIONS

**Scuba diving**

*See page 3 for details*

### DAY 7 / KO SAMUI, BOAT TO KO TAO

We leave after breakfast and continue our island hopping to Ko Tao. Also known as Turtle Island after its shape, Ko Tao is north of Ko Samui and has some of the Gulf of Siam's very best scuba-diving waters and for those who are keen to learn to dive or do some snorkelling, there are few better places.

*Overnight at hotel on Ko Tao (B).*

### DAY 8-9 / KO TAO, FREE TIME

You will have lots of free time for relaxation: swimming, snorkelling, sunbathing and exploring the island. Those who are keen to take a diving course will need to extend their stay. Please let us know when you book, or let your tour leader know in advance if you would like to do this.

Extra days can be added into your time in Ko Tao if required - please contact us for details.

*Overnight at hotel on Ko Tao (2xB).*

### DAY 8-9 EXTRA OPTIONS

**Scuba diving**

*See page 3 for details*

### DAY 10 / KO TAO, TRAIN TO BANGKOK

We bid a reluctant farewell to Ko Tao today and leave to catch the public ferry to Chumphon. You will have a few hours free to look around, find things to eat before boarding the overnight train back to Bangkok.

*Overnight on train to Bangkok (B).*

### DAY 11 / TOUR ENDS

Our tour finishes on arrival at Bangkok train station at about 07.00. Additional accommodation in Bangkok and departure airport transfers are available on request.

**To book visit: [www.thailand-uncovered.com](http://www.thailand-uncovered.com), email: [tours@thailand-uncovered.com](mailto:tours@thailand-uncovered.com), or call us on: +44 (0) 845 130 48 49**

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## DAY 11 EXTRA OPTIONS

### Departure airport transfer

See page 3 for details

## SMALL GROUP, PRIVATE AND TAILOR-MADE TOURS

### SMALL GROUP DEPARTURES:

We have regular small group departures on this tour throughout the year. Departure dates are given on our website, and on request.

### PRIVATE DEPARTURES:

You can also choose to do the tour privately, following the itinerary above, but on any other date. We add a small supplement for these departures. Please contact us first to check availability.

### TAILOR-MADE TOURS:

Finally, this tour can also be used as a base for a private tailor-made itinerary, to be run on any dates. You can make adjustments as per your own requirements (for example, adding extra days, slightly shortening the tour, adding a scuba-diving course etc.).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### OPTIONS:

#### Booking and paying for options:

Options can be booked when you make your reservation on our website, between confirming your booking and your departure, and some can also be arranged during the tour itself, subject to availability at the time.

To comply with ATOL regulations in the UK, some options including flights where we don't issue the tickets here in the UK, are to be booked in advance, but purchased from, and paid for to, our agent in Bangkok.

Credit cards, traveller's cheques or cash are accepted in Bangkok for these payments at the start of the tour (a fee will be added if you use a credit card). A receipt will be provided to show the flight & payment details.

### Single room supplement - Price: £100

If you want to guarantee yourself a single room throughout the tour, then we need to add a single supplement charge.

If you are a single traveller joining one of our Economy level group tours, then if you are happy to, you may share a twin room with another single traveller on the tour of the same sex. If there are no other single travellers available for you to pair up with at the time of your booking, then we will need to add the single supplement to your tour price, but will refund this if we are able to pair you up later on.

**Note:** Couples will always be given a private double room, and triple/family rooms are available on request. Book in advance. Pay in advance.

### Extra days - Price: £15-£25 p/p/night

These are available on request in Bangkok before and after the tour starts and finishes, and in Ko Tao before you return to Bangkok. If you'd like to add extra days into the time elsewhere, then please request a tailor-made tour.

The price includes a night in the hotel, breakfast, all taxes and transfers (single supplements apply).

Book in advance. Pay in advance.

### Arrival airport transfer - Price: £15 p/p (£30 for 1 person)

If you wish, we can arrange to meet you on your arrival in Bangkok airport, and provide a private transfer to the hotel used at the start of the tour. This is a 24-hour service.

Book in advance. Pay in advance.

### Departure airport transfer - Price: £15 p/p (£30 for 1 person)

At the end of the tour, this option covers a private transfer to the airport in time for your flight home. This is a 24-hour service and is available on Day 11 of the tour.

Book & pay in advance OR in Bangkok.

### Scuba-Diving - Price: on request

We offer a wide range of PADI diving courses for divers of all levels of experience to do during your time in Thailand (some activities may need to be missed out, or extra days added if you do a diving course). Alternatively you can just try an introductory dive or two. These can all be arranged in advance or with our representatives in Bangkok or Ko Tao.

Further information is available on request.

Book & Pay in advance OR in Bangkok

### INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- All accommodation (see below)
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Transfers and transport as detailed in the itinerary
- Tours & guides as indicated in the itinerary

### NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- International airfares
- Visa costs
- Arrival & departure airport transfers (available as extra options)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees including entry to the Kao Sok National Park
- Activities in Khao Sok National Park
- Drinks, snacks, tips, and other personal expenses
- Travel insurance - please see the policies available on our website
- Any other items not mentioned above

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## ACCOMMODATION:

Our Economy tours use a range of accommodation including lodges, camping, village huts, family home-stays and tourist class hotels at approx. 2-3-star level. Nearly all rooms have air-conditioning and en-suite bathrooms.

**Note:** For our group departures, we will advise you of the hotel to be used on the tour about 2 weeks before departure. If you have specific requirements for hotels, then please request a private or tailor-made tour.

## Hotels used on this tour (subject to availability):

### Bangkok (2 to 3-star):

• Royal Hotel, Trang Hotel (std a/c room).

### Khao Sok (Basic):

• Khao Sok Rain Forest Resort (fanned bungalow).

### Ko Samui (2-3-star):

• Samui First House (std. a/c room).

### Ko Tao (2-3-star):

• Ko Tao Resort (mountain wing, fanned bungalow).

At certain times of the year or where circumstances dictate we may need to use different hotels from those listed above. In this event alternative accommodation will always be of a similar standard.

Please see the Accommodation page on our website for more details of the hotels that we use in Thailand.

## Sleeper train:

The sleeper trains in Thailand are of a good standard and popular with tourists. Each carriage has its own steward who ensures the train is kept clean and tidy, and from whom meals & drinks can be ordered to your seat. There is also a separate restaurant car. Each

carriage will sleep approx. 40 people. On either side of the carriage there are two seats facing each other, with a window and small table. In the evening, the steward will convert these seats into beds for you, which have a pillow, sheets and a blanket, and a curtain for privacy.

## TRANSPORT:

This tour aims at bringing you as close to the real Thailand as possible and not cocooning you from it. To this end we use public transport wherever we feel that it meets our high standards - this may include 2nd class overnight sleeper trains, local buses and local ferries. We also use private transport including jeeps or pick-up trucks to and from the trek, and minibuses for the sightseeing tours where necessary.

## TRANSFERS:

The tour includes all transfers detailed in the itinerary. Airport arrival and departure transfers are not included in the tour price, but are available on request (see Options section above).

## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS:

In order to keep our tours flexible, and to make them accessible to as many people as possible, we do not include your international flights in the set tour itinerary or price.

However, we do hold an ATOL (UK flight sales license) and are happy to book your flights for you. If you let us know your ideal dates and departure airport, then we will be happy to provide you with some flight options that we can arrange for you. You can then choose whether to book the flights through us, or make your own arrangements. Either way, your airport arrival & departure transfers are included.

## TOUR LEADERS/GUIDES:

For this tour we provide fully trained, local English-speaking Thai guides to act as your tour leader.

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 for this tour. Please check our website for further details.

**Note:** For groups of under 4 people we may use separate guides in each location (i.e. you will not be accompanied on the overnight trains, but our reps will be there for all the other transfers for you).

## ENTRANCE FEES:

The tour price does not include entrance fees to the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary, or into Khao Sok National Park.

## TIPPING:

Tipping is not part of Thai culture, but has become customary but not compulsory in the service & tourist industry. Tipping is always optional, and any amounts paid should reflect excellent service.

It is normal and accepted for people to tip differently, and you should not feel under any pressure to tip any particular amount.

We are often asked for advice on common amounts however, and suggest that up to 10% of the tour price would be a suitable budget for this tour.

## COUNTRY GUIDE:

For an in-depth overview of Thailand, please checkout the country guide pages on our website.

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## DATES & PRICES:

We have regular departures on this tour throughout the year. Our small group departure dates are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet (available on request).

We can also run the tour privately for you on any other dates for a small supplement, or customise it 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.

## CLIMATE:

The weather in Thailand varies between the northern & southern halves of the country, and the time of year, and is controlled by several different monsoons. These monsoon rains start and finish at slightly different times every year.

In the northern & central regions (including Bangkok & Chiang Mai), the 'dry season' lasts from November/December to May, before getting steadily hotter in June and July. The most rain falls in August and September.

In the south (including Khao Sok & Krabi), the 'dry season' normally runs from November to April, with most rain falling from May to October, with less temperature difference between them than in the North.

In Koh Samui and Ko Tao, the 'cool dry season' runs from December to February, with the 'hot dry season' running from March to August, and the 'rainy season' starting sometime in September and finishing late November.

Each of the seasons has its own charms and its difficulties!

## HEALTH:

For up to the minute health information & vaccination requirements for Thailand we recommend that you contact your GP or a travel

clinic (1st Contact have a travel clinic with free advice tel. 0800 0393073).

General vaccination recommendations for Thailand include Tetanus, Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Polio and Typhoid.

**Note:** *The National Park in this tour is not considered to be a malarial risk (the only endemic area is close to the border with Myanmar).*

## VISAS:

British, European, and many other nationalities do not require a visa for travel to Thailand for stays of 30 days or less. If you are staying longer then visas are required. For further information on your visa requirements, please contact us or checkout the visa pages on our website.

## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM:

We take responsible travel seriously, and as well as taking this into consideration when we design our itineraries, and select the people and agents we work with, we also donate £2 for every person travelling on of our Thailand tours. One of the organisations we support is the Border Green Energy Team (BGET), who provide hands-on appropriate technology training and financial support to village innovators in ethnic minority areas on both sides of the Thai/Burma border. More examples of how we spend your money and full details of our responsible travel policy are given on our website.

## PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION:

After booking, we will provide you with detailed information to help you prepare for the tour. This will include helpful advice on money, health, insurance, tipping, climate, clothing etc.

Further information is also available in the County & Travel guides on our website.

## YOUR SPACE @ UNCOVER THE WORLD:

We have launched a community space for use by past, present and future travellers with us. Here you can make contact with fellow travellers in your group before you travel, or share photos and stay in contact with them after you return home. You can also ask questions of our staff and read updates on itineraries and destination news etc. For further details, please check...

<http://yourspace.uncovertheworld.travel>



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