

Classic Thailand from only £1,450pp*

13 DAYS / SMALL GROUP OR PRIVATE TOUR / SUPERIOR TOUR /



thailand
uncovered

This holiday is a comprehensive, extended version of our Treasures of Thailand tour, and introduces you to many of the main sights in northern Thailand. We have designed a balanced itinerary to visit temples & important historical sites, view beautiful scenery & countryside, and learn about local life in the cities and remote border villages, while staying in high class comfortable accommodation throughout.



FLIGHT BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

See page 4 for details

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:

Temples & Palaces of Bangkok, Bridge on the River Kwai, Chiang Mai temples & scenery, Chiang Rai and tribal villages in the Golden Triangle.

FLIGHTS INCLUDED:*
✗

LOCAL PAYMENT:
✗

ENTRANCE FEES:
✓

AIRPORT TRANSFERS:
✓

TOUR FACTS

Tour Code & Class:	CUTHCT / Superior
Group Size & Age:	Min. - 2 Max. - 12 / Min. age - 6
Activity - Cultural:	Sightseeing, boat ride, elephant ride (optional)
Activity Level:	Low
Accommodation:	11 nights in hotels, 1 overnight train
Transport:	Internal flight, 2nd class A/C sleeper train, private A/C minibus
Meals:	13 Breakfasts (B), 3 Lunches (L) and 2 Dinners (D)

YOUR 13 DAY TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Arrive in Bangkok. Transfer from airport to hotel.
- Day 2:** Bangkok - Grand Palace & City canal tours
- Day 3:** Kanchanaburi - River Kwai tour.
- Day 4:** Erawan National Park.
- Day 5:** Ayutthaya - Temples tour, sleeper train to Chiang Mai.
- Day 6:** Chiang Mai - Doi Suthep temple & evening Kantoke dinner.
- Day 7:** Lampang & Elephant Conservation Centre.
- Day 8:** Chiang Mai - Free time (various options available).
- Day 9:** Chiang Rai - Mae Kok river boat trip.
- Day 10:** Chiang Rai - Golden Triangle tour.
- Day 11:** Chiang Rai - Free time (various options available)
- Day 12:** Flight back to Bangkok. Free afternoon.
- Day 13:** Bangkok - Free time. Transfer to airport for flight home.

"Would you like to miss out Chiang Rai and shorten this tour by 3 days? ...then check out our Treasures of Thailand tour"

**To book visit: www.thailand-uncovered.com,
email: tours@thailand-uncovered.com or call us on: +44 (0) 845 130 48 49
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* LAND ONLY PRICE, FLIGHT QUOTES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. / LAST AMENDED 10/08/2008 /

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DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 / ARRIVE IN BANGKOK

You arrive at Bangkok airport where we greet you and transfer you to your hotel. Your Thailand Uncovered rep welcomes you, helps you settle into the hotel, and provides you with some useful tips for exploring the area as well as outlining the schedule for the next few days.

Overnight at hotel in Bangkok.

DAY 1 EXTRA OPTIONS

Bangkok Introductory tour

See pages 3-4 for details

DAY 2 / BANGKOK, GRAND PALACE & CANALS TOURS

After a pre-tour briefing, we start today with a half day tour to 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.

Following a Thai lunch by the river, in the afternoon we take a cruise along the canals of Bangkok's surprisingly rural western suburbs and enjoy the natural scenery and observe the daily lives of the people who live along the canals. We stop en-route for an opportunity to talk to some of the students attending the temple school or take a leisurely stroll through vegetable and herb gardens. Continuing by boat we visit an orchid farm and the boathouse where the Royal Barges are kept and maintained.

Overnight at hotel in Bangkok (B L).

DAY 3 / KANCHANABURI & RIVER KWAI

Today we take you on a trip to historic Kanchanaburi where the remains of the famous bridge over the River Kwai can be seen. You visit the Allied War Cemetery, war museum and the bridge over the River Kwai. After a lunch by the river it's time to take a train journey on the Death Railway, over the bridges and a spectacular wooden

viaduct built by the POWs during the Second World War. A short long-tailed boat trip along the Kwai Noi River is also included.

Overnight at hotel in Kanchanaburi (B L D).

DAY 4 / ERAWAN NATIONAL PARK

This morning you take a walk into Erawan National Park and visit a beautiful multi-tiered waterfall. Erawan National Park is a unique and rugged landscape of high elevation plateaus and steep valleys. Its forests support an amazing array of plants and a diverse range of wildlife, from minute brilliantly coloured insects to tigers and the mighty Asian elephant.

The afternoon is now free for you to enjoy the riverside location of Kanchanaburi at your leisure. There are plenty of activity and sightseeing options available or alternatively you can just relax and take it easy.

Overnight at hotel in Kanchanaburi (B L D).

DAY 5 / AYUTTHAYA, TEMPLE TOUR

Next we head east to Ayutthaya, the former capital of Thailand (1350-1767AD) and a UNESCO world heritage site. Ayutthaya's many ancient temples are scattered throughout the site and along the encircling Chao Phraya River. We will visit several of the most important temples and Ban Pa-In, the former summer palace, before taking the overnight sleeper train to Chiang Mai. A Thai lunch is included today, on board a traditional rice barge.

Overnight on train to Chiang Mai (B L).

DAY 6 / CHIANG MAI, DOI SUTHEP & KANTOKE DINNER

On arrival in Chiang Mai we transfer you to your hotel and the rest of the morning is free to relax and settle in. Chiang Mai is a lively, bustling city and its charming character makes the province "a must" to visit.

After lunch, it's time to take a trip up to the highly revered Doi Suthep Temple, which contains a holy relic of the Buddha. Situated on

forested mountain top, the temple affords spectacular views of the city and surrounding countryside.

In the evening you will enjoy a special traditional dinner. This 'Kantoke Dinner' is an important part of the northern Thai people's culture and hospitality. The name derives from the individual tables set with a variety of northern dishes served in lacquerware. During the dinner there will be a performance of traditional northern Thai and hill-tribe music and dancing.

Overnight at hotel in Chiang Mai (D).

DAY 7 / LAMPANG & ELEPHANT CONSERVATION CENTRE

Today we take you on a trip to the nearby city of Lampang. En-route we visit the Elephant Conservation Centre to see the elephants bathing and demonstrating their skills at hauling timber. You will 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.

Next you continue on to Lampang city to tour one of the most sacred temples in the North, Wat Phrathat Lampang Luang, as well as the Burmese-style temples Wat Phra Kaew Dontao and Wat Sri Longmuang. Lampang has escaped much tourist development and still has a lot of traditional housing and building in the city centre.

Overnight at hotel in Chiang Mai (B L).

DAY 8 / CHIANG MAI, FREE TIME

Today is a free day but there are still lots of options for you to choose from in this exciting city. Your guide will give you good information on what to do, such as Thai cooking, taking an easy bike ride through the surrounding area and temple sites, or relaxing with a traditional Thai massage. No activities this day are included in the tour price.

Overnight at hotel in Chiang Mai (B).

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DAY 8 EXTRA OPTIONS

Full day Thai cookery course

Chiang Mai temples tour

Chiang Mai handicrafts tour

See pages 3-4 for details

DAY 9 / CHIANG RAI, MAE KOK BOAT TRIP

Today we transfer north to the charming and laid back city of Chiang Rai. Founded in 1262 by King Meng Rai, Chiang Rai was the first capital of the Lanna Thai Kingdom (Kingdom of a million rice fields), which was later conquered by Burma. It was not until 1786 that Chiang Rai became a Thai territory and was proclaimed a province during the reign of King Rama VI in 1910. Today, Chiang Rai is a traveller's paradise endowed with abundant natural tourist attractions and antiquities; the province itself is evidence of past civilization. Attractions range from magnificent mountain scenery, ruins of ancient settlements, historic sites, Buddhist shrines and ethnic villages as the province is also home to several hill tribes who maintain fascinating lifestyles. After settling in at your hotel we take you on a leisurely boat trip along the Mae Nam Kok River, which affords an excellent opportunity to see the stunning natural jungle scenery.

Overnight at hotel in Chiang Rai (B).

DAY 10 / GOLDEN TRIANGLE TOUR

Overlooking the mighty Mekong River the infamous Golden Triangle covers the Thailand, Burma and Laos borders. Today we take you out to Yao & Akha hill-tribe villages to observe their distinctive dress and traditional ways of life. You will also visit Mae Sai - the most northern point of Thailand - on the border with Burma, where Burmese lacquer ware, gems, jade and other goods from Laos and Burma are sold in the shops along the main street.

Overnight at hotel in Chiang Rai (B).

DAY 11 / CHIANG RAI, FREE TIME

Options today include relaxing in your hotel near the banks of the Sok River or choosing one of the various trails and going 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 (optional activities today not included in the tour price).

Overnight at hotel in Chiang Rai (B).

DAY 12 / FLIGHT TO BANGKOK, FREE TIME

This morning we transfer you to Chiang Rai airport for the hour long internal flight back to Bangkok. On arrival in Bangkok we will transfer you to your hotel and the afternoon is then free for you to relax, do some last minute shopping or take in some more sightseeing. Some optional tours are also available this afternoon, which our local rep will be happy to arrange for you (not included in the tour price).

Overnight at hotel in Bangkok (B).

DAY 13 / TOUR ENDS

Your day is free to do some last minute sightseeing and shopping, until we transfer you to the airport in time for your flight home. (B).

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.

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Single room supplement - Price: £625 p/p

If you are a single traveller, then we do need to add a single supplement charge (we do not share rooms between separate bookers on our Superior level Thailand tours). This supplement guarantees you a single room throughout your tour, with the exception of the sleeper train, on which you have your own curtained bunk in a shared carriage.

Note: Couples will always be given a private double room. Triple rooms with 3 beds are not generally available, but rooms with connecting doors are available for family groups.

Book in advance. Pay in advance.

Extra days - Price: £75-£150 p/p/night

These are available on request in Bangkok before and after the tour starts and finishes. 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 (peak season and single supplements apply).

Book in advance. Pay in advance.

Bangkok Introductory tour - Price: £20 p/p (min 2)

This introductory half day tour is done on foot and using a wide selection of different public transport to familiarise you with the city of Bangkok and its many different sites and features. We concentrate more on learning about the life of the city rather than visiting famous sites which you may see during the main part of your tour.

Book & Pay in advance or in Thailand.

Chiang Mai Temples tour - Price: £15 p/p (min 2)

This half-day tour visits some of Chiang Mai's famous and historic monasteries with their distinctive northern style, including Wat

Phra Sing, Wat Chedi Luang, Wat Suan Dawk and Wat Jet Yot, all dating back to the 14th and 15th centuries. We also see Wat Chiang Man, the city's oldest monastery, founded in 1296 (min 2 people).

Book & Pay in advance or in Thailand.

Chiang Mai Handicrafts tour - Price: £10 p/p (min 2)

This half-day tour visits the villages of Bor Sang and San Kampaeng which are famous for their craft industries. We observe the manufacture of silk, hand-made cotton goods, and the traditional techniques still employed in woodcarving and in the production of silverware, lacquerware and paper umbrellas (min 2 people).

Book & Pay in advance or in Thailand.

Full day Thai cookery course - Price: £20 p/p

For this option we transfer you to the Baan Hong Nual Cookery School in Chiang Mai for a Thai cooking course, which will be devoted to an introduction to the main ingredients used in Thai cuisine, their uses, storage and suitable alternatives. The uses of these ingredients will then be demonstrated with the assistance of the participants in preparing a typical Thai lunch. Afterwards there will be an opportunity to try a selection of Thai fruits and snacks.

Book & Pay in advance or in Thailand.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- All accommodation (see below)
- Chiang Rai-Bangkok internal flight
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all sites visited in the itinerary
- All transfers, including 24-hour airport transfer service
- Tours & guides as indicated in the itinerary
- All transport

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- International airfares
- Visa costs
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips, and other personal expenses
- Travel insurance - please see the policies available on our website
- Any other items not mentioned above

ACCOMMODATION:

Our Superior level tours in Thailand use high quality 3 to 5-star hotels, in which all rooms have air-conditioning, en-suite bathrooms, telephone and cable TV. Other facilities and services include swimming pools in pleasant garden surroundings, an assortment of coffee shops, cafes, restaurants and shops, fitness studio, business centre, laundry service and room service.

Note: For our group departures, we will advise you of the hotels 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.

Example hotels used on this tour (subject to availability):

Bangkok (5-star):

- Landmark Hotel, Banyan Tree Hotel.

Kanchanaburi (3 to 4-star):

- Kasalong Resort hotel.

Chiang Mai (4 to 5-star):

- Dusit D2 Hotel, Imperial Mae Ping Hotel.

Chiang Rai (4 to 5-star):

- Dusit Island Resort.

At certain times of the year or where circumstances dictate we may

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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.

TRANSPORT:

The transport used on this tour includes private AC cars or minibuses, internal flights, and the 2nd Class overnight sleeper train (1st class cabins are only available on some trains, and in very limited numbers, which is why they are not used on this tour).

The sleeper trains are cleaned regularly throughout the journey and your accommodation consists of comfortable fold down bunks with a sheet and a blanket, a curtained partition and shared toilet facilities, two to each coach. We only use a/c coaches, and meals, snacks and drinks are available to buy from the coach attendants.

You also travel on a long-tail boat on the Mae Kok River.

TRANSFERS:

The tour includes both your airport arrival and departure transfers (24-hour service), and all other transfers.

After customs and immigration formalities you will be met by our representative, and after introductions, they will take you straight to your hotel (full details will be provided after booking).

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 Bangkok and for the Chiang Mai/Chiang Rai section (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 includes entrance fees to the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary.

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 5-10% of the tour price would be a suitable budget for this tour.

COUNTRY GUIDE:

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

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!

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.

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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. Malaria prophylactics are also recommended for this tour as malaria is present in the northern border areas.

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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We are fully bonded for your complete financial protection.

'Thailand Uncovered' is a trading name of Uncover the World.

www.uncovertheworld.travel

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