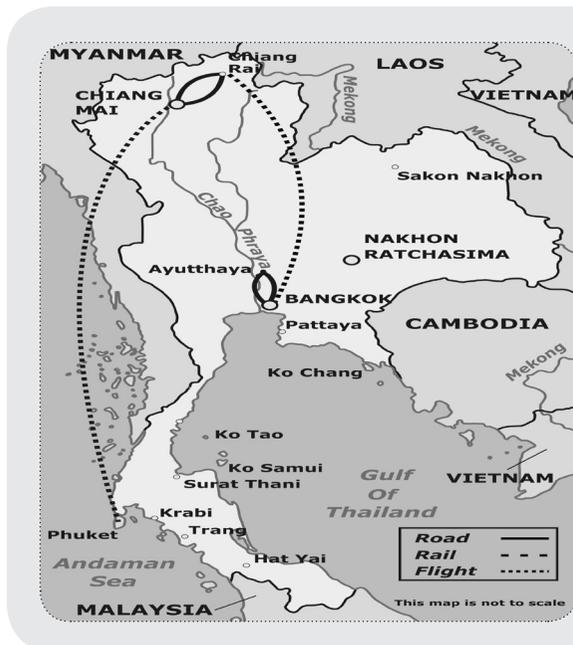


# Classic Thailand

14 DAYS / PRIVATE TOUR / CULTURAL ADVENTURE

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.



**We run this tour on private departures only. Call or check the website for dates and prices. Various tailor-made options are also available on request.**

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Temples & Palaces of Bangkok; Ancient capital at Ayutthaya; Chiang Mai Gateway to the North; Chiang Rai and the Golden Triangle; Phuket.

### FLIGHT BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

See page 4 for details

<b>FLIGHTS INCLUDED:*</b>	<b>LOCAL PAYMENT:</b>	<b>ENTRANCE FEES:</b>	<b>AIRPORT TRANSFERS:</b>
X	X	✓	✓

**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: CUTHCT when booking**

### TOUR FACTS

<b>Tour Code:</b>	CUTHCT
<b>Group Size &amp; Age:</b>	Min. - 2 Max. - 12 / Min. age - none
<b>Travel Idea:</b>	Cultural Adventure
<b>Activity Level:</b>	Mild
<b>Comfort Rating:</b>	Luxury
<b>Accommodation:</b>	13 nights in hotels
<b>Transport:</b>	Internal flight, private A/C minibus or car

### YOUR 14 DAY TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Arrive in Bangkok. Transfer from airport to hotel.
- Day 2:** Bangkok - Grand Palace & Muslim village tours.
- Day 3:** Ayutthaya - Temples tour.
- Day 4:** Floating Markets and Canal tour.
- Day 5:** Fly to Chiang Rai, tour of city.
- Day 6:** Chiang Rai - Golden Triangle tour.
- Day 7:** Drive to Chiang Mai stopping at villages en route.
- Day 8:** Chiang Mai - Lana cultural tour, boat trip and Doi Suthep Temple.
- Day 9:** Chiang Mai - Free time, fly to Phuket.
- Day 10:** Phuket - Free time to enjoy relaxing.
- Day 11:** Phuket - Free time to enjoy relaxing.
- Day 12:** Phuket - Free time to enjoy relaxing.
- Day 13:** Phuket - Free time to enjoy relaxing.
- Day 14:** Bangkok - Free time. Transfer to airport for flight home.

**"Would you like to miss out Chiang Rai and shorten this tour by 3 days? ...contact us for more details."**



# Classic Thailand continued...

14 DAYS / PRIVATE TOUR / CULTURAL ADVENTURE

## 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 CANALS-TEMPLE OF DAWN-GRAND PALACE & CITY

Today we drive to the Chao Phya River's edge, to board a local style long-tail boat, and spend the next few hours exploring the old canals of the Thonburi side of Bangkok, where an older and more traditional lifestyle still survives. You'll have plenty of time to stop for snack or to purchase souvenirs en route. You'll stop for a visit to the Temple of Dawn, which you will probably recognize, from its famous silhouette. The local story goes that the shards of pottery decorating its 79m tall spire came from a nearby shipwreck 100 years ago.

Later in the day we'll visit the Grand Palace which houses not only the royal residence and throne halls, but also a number of government offices as well as the renowned Temple of the Emerald Buddha. It covers an area of 218,000 square meters and is surrounded by four walls, 1900 meters in length.

*Overnight at hotel in Bangkok (B L).*

### DAY 3 / FULL DAY BANGKOK - AYUTTHAYA WITH BOAT RIDE

Today we take you on a full day tour to Ayutthaya, the former capital of Thailand. You'll visit interesting old temples and ruins, followed

by a boat ride around Ayutthaya Island. After lunch, there will be time to visit Bang Pa In Summer Palace with its beautiful extensive park grounds in an exotic combination of Thai and European architecture. At the end of the day we'll return to Bangkok and your hotel.

*Overnight at hotel in Bangkok (B L).*

### DAY 4 / BANGKOK TO CHIANG RAI - HALF DAY DOI MAE SALONG AND HILL TRIBES

This morning is free for you to enjoy, before we transfer you to the airport for your flight to Chiang Rai. Upon arrival in Chiang Rai, you are met and transferred to your hotel.

In the afternoon we drive to Mae Chan district and uphill to Doi Mae Salong, one of those places where the journey to reach it is more beautiful and worthwhile than the place itself. The splendid views on the way alone are worth driving to Mae Salong. The little town was founded in the 1960s by former Kuomintang (anti-Communist) soldiers who had been expelled from Burma (Myanmar) and settled on the lovely mountain, unfortunately only in order to compete with the local drug barons for a sizable share in the opium and heroin trade. On this mountain, you can visit other kinds of hill tribe; Akha & Yao villages and a tea plantation.

*Overnight at hotel in Chiang Rai (B).*

### DAY 5 / FULL DAY LAOS BORDER CROSSING, MEKONG RIVER TRIP & GOLDEN TRIANGLE

This morning we head out to the Golden Triangle. We start with a visit to Chiang Saen to explore the ruins of this ancient city, before driving along the Mae Khong River to Baan Kiuw Karn, a village of the white Hmong tribe, which is located on a hilltop. Later you'll stop at Chiang Khong, famous as being one of the few places where the giant catfish are still caught (subject to season). We then stop at the immigration office in "Tha Buck" to process documents for

entry to Laos, and then take a boat crossing the Mae Khong River into Laos. We'll make a visit to a Lantan hill tribe for a chance to see, firsthand, the simple way of life of the villagers, then continue by pickup truck to see Sapphire Mine (subject to season). Lastly we return to Huay Sai market where the shops and street stalls are full of Chinese and Laos goods, before crossing back to Thailand by boat and the drive back to your hotel.

*Overnight at hotel in Chiang Rai (B L).*

### DAY 6 / CHIANG RAI - CHIANG MAI - HALF DAY DOI SUTHEP TOUR

In the morning we transfer you back to Chiang Mai. In the afternoon you'll enjoy a visit to Doi Suthep (Doi in northern dialect is a mountain) to tour the temple on a top of mountain, Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, which is the most famous and sacred landmark in Chiang Mai. After the visit, jump on board an open-air local truck and drive up to the Blue Hmong village of Doi Pui where you can see the lifestyle of the local Hmong or Meo Hill Tribes, and visit their Cultural Museum.

*Overnight at hotel in Chiang Mai (B L).*

### DAY 7 / MAHOUT TRAINING AT PATARA ELEPHANT FARM - CHIANG MAI

Today we take you on a trip to the Patara Elephant Farm outside of Chiang Mai. At the farm you will be given your mahout outfit and a brief talk on working with elephants before heading into the bush to find them. As the day goes on you will hear all about elephant farm management and the breeding program taking place there. You'll meet the elephants and learn to approach them and work with them from the ground and to take them to the river for their morning bath. After a short ride to a local temple you'll learn more about the elephants in Buddhism and the Thai's ancient relationship with these traditional beasts of burden. Around mid-day you'll set off for a ride through the jungle to some waterfalls to enjoy a picnic lunch and a swim with your elephant in the falls. Later

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# Classic Thailand continued...

## 14 DAYS / PRIVATE TOUR / CULTURAL ADVENTURE

on in the afternoon you'll return to camp and say goodbye to your new friends before being transferred back to your hotel.

*Overnight at hotel in Chiang Mai (B L).*

### DAY 8 / CHIANG MAI- COOKING CLASS

After breakfast this morning, you'll join your chef to visit the local market to pick out some ingredients for your class. Returning back to the cooking school you'll next learn how to cook Thai food and test your culinary skills. Lunch is eating the fruits of your efforts - enjoy! The afternoon is free for you to relax or to further explore Chiang Mai.

*Overnight at hotel in Chiang Mai (B L).*

### DAY 9 / CHIANG MAI - FLIGHT TO PHUKET

The morning is free for you to enjoy at your leisure until you are transferred back to Chiang Mai for your flight to Phuket. Upon arrival in Phuket we meet you and transfer you to your hotel, where the rest of the day and evening is free for you to settle in to your new surroundings.

*Overnight at hotel in Phuket (B).*

### DAY 10 - 13 / PHUKET AT LEISURE

The next 4 days are completely free for you to relax and unwind on the golden sandy beaches of Phuket. We include a guided tour of the interior one day, and an elegant dinner cruise to a secluded beach for a memorable end to your stay. A wide range of activities are available, above and below the water, or you can just relax in and around your hotel.

*Overnight at hotel in Phuket (B).*

### DAY 14 / FLIGHT TO BANGKOK, TOUR ENDS

The morning is free, until we transfer you to the airport for your

flight home.  
(B).

### SMALL GROUP, PRIVATE AND TAILOR-MADE TOURS

#### SMALL GROUP DEPARTURES:

We do not generally offer regular small group departures on this tour. If you would like to put your own group together however, please do contact us and we will be able to offer you some discounted rates and to adjust the itinerary to fit your group's particular preferences and dates.

#### PRIVATE DEPARTURES:

This tour is designed primarily to be run as a private tour, just for you, your family, or your own group of friends. It can be run on any dates, but please contact us or check our website for more information on ideal seasons and weather in different parts of the country. Prices on our website are based on 2 adults travelling in low season and sharing a room, and discounts are available on request if there would be more people travelling together. Prices in high season and peak periods will be slightly higher, and quoted on request.

#### 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 as many or as few adjustments to the itinerary as per your own requirements and we will provide suggestions, ideas and prices to fit your own personal interests and budget.

### 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

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

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.

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# Classic Thailand continued...

## 14 DAYS / PRIVATE TOUR / CULTURAL ADVENTURE

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

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.*

### INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- All accommodation (see below)
- Bangkok-Chiang Rai internal flight
- Chiang Mai-Phuket 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:

Tours with our luxury rating use mainly high quality 5-star hotels, deluxe guesthouses and resorts to provide you with all the luxury and comfort available. We may still use more basic overnight sleeper trains and more adventurous or remote sections may feature fairly simple accommodation, but the vast majority of the tour will be in 5-star hotels.

**Note:** *Our website prices are based on a range of hotels, and we will let you know which are to be used a few weeks before departure. If you would like to finalise and guarantee specific hotels before you book, please request a tailor-made tour. Please see the Accommodation page on our website for more information about the hotels we use.*

### 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 sheets 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 for all the sightseeing tours. Our website prices are based on using different guides in different parts of Thailand (for example, you generally keep the same guide for all of the Bangkok/Kanchanaburi/Ayutthaya region, and then a different guide would be used in the north for Chaing Mai & Chiang Rai. 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 the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary.

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# Classic Thailand continued...

14 DAYS / PRIVATE TOUR / CULTURAL ADVENTURE

## 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 checkout 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 can run the tour privately for you on any dates 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.

## 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.

## FACEBOOK & TWITTER:

Uncover the World recently joined the Facebook community; it would be great if you joined us and shared some of your travel photos and stories. It's also a great way to stay in touch with your fellow travellers, share photos, and also keep updated with special offers and news about new tours and destinations from us - click on [www.facebook.com/UncoverTheWorld](https://www.facebook.com/UncoverTheWorld) and 'Like' us.

You can also follow us on Twitter - [www.twitter.com/utworld](https://www.twitter.com/utworld)

We are fully bonded for your complete financial protection.



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