

Ko Tao PADI Advanced Open Water

10 DAYS / PRIVATE TOUR / DIVING TRIP

If you want to improve your diving skills, and to enjoy some of the most spectacular dive sites in the world, then our Ko Tao PADI Advanced Open Water course is what you're looking for. With more than 20 top class dive sites dotted around this beautiful, palm fringed island, every day you're sure to find something new to explore. Just a few days of diving at this tremendous site elevates your qualifications to that of the PADI Advanced Open Water Diver, and there is time for plenty of extra diving as well.

TOUR FACTS

Tour Code:	DVTHAD
Group Size & Age:	Min. - 2 Max. - 8 / Min. age - 12
Travel Idea:	Divining Trip
Activity Level:	Moderate
Comfort Rating:	Standard
Accommodation:	7 nights in hotels
Transport:	Minibus, 2nd class A/C sleeper train, local bus, ferry

YOUR 10 DAY TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Arrive in Bangkok. Optional airport transfer.
- Day 2:** Bangkok - Grand Palace tour. Free afternoon (optional canals tour). Overnight sleeper train to Chumphon.
- Day 3:** Ferry to Ko Tao. Introduction to dive centre. Free time.
- Day 4:** Ko Tao - Start PADI Advanced Open Water course.
- Day 5:** Ko Tao - PADI Advanced Open Water course.
- Day 6:** Ko Tao - PADI Advanced Open Water course.
- Day 7:** Ko Tao - Free time for extra diving.
- Day 8:** Ko Tao - Free time. Ferry to Chumphon then overnight sleeper train to Bangkok.
- Day 9:** Arrive in Bangkok. Transfer to hotel. Free time.
- Day 10:** Bangkok - Free time. Transfer to airport for flight home.

"Interested in adding some extra diving or sightseeing into your tour? ...then contact us for a tailor-made package"



FLIGHT BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

See page 4 for details

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:

Grand Palace, Gulf of Thailand Coral Reefs & Fish, Relaxed Ko Tao Atmosphere, Tropical Island Scenery, Scuba-diving qualification.

FLIGHTS INCLUDED:*	LOCAL PAYMENT:	ENTRANCE FEES:	AIRPORT TRANSFERS:
X	✓	✓	X

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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Ko Tao PADI Advanced Open Water continued...

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DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 / ARRIVE IN BANGKOK

You make your own way to the hotel today and check in (details & directions provided after booking).

If you are arriving in Bangkok today, then we offer an optional transfer in a private minibus from the airport to the hotel.

Overnight at hotel in Bangkok.

DAY 1 EXTRA OPTIONS

Arrival airport transfer

See pages 3-4 for details

DAY 2 / BANGKOK, GRAND PALACE TOUR, OVERNIGHT TRAIN TO CHUMPNORN

Your Thailand Uncovered rep welcomes you this morning, and gives a short pre-tour briefing as well as outlining the schedule for the next few days.

We then enjoy 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.

The rest of the day is free for you to enjoy more sightseeing in Bangkok, or just relax. In the late afternoon we board the train for the overnight journey to Chumphorn, staying in second-class air-conditioned sleeping berths.

Overnight on train to Chumphorn (B).

DAY 2 EXTRA OPTIONS

Bangkok Canals tour

See pages 3-4 for details

DAY 3 / FERRY TO KO TAO. INTRODUCTION TO DIVE CENTRE

After arrival in Chumphorn early in the morning, we transfer you by

bus to connect with the direct ferry to Ko Tao (approx. 2-3 hours). In Ko Tao we transfer to our hotel, where you will have the rest of the morning and most of the afternoon just to relax and explore your surroundings after the long journey.

In the afternoon we will introduce you to the dive-centre, where you will discuss and finalise the arrangements for your scuba-diving over the next few days.

Overnight at hotel on Ko Tao.

DAY 3 EXTRA OPTIONS

Refresher dive

See pages 3-4 for details

DAY 4-6 / INTRODUCTION TO DIVE CENTRE, AND START PADI ADVANCED OPEN WATER COURSE

We start the course this morning, and your logbook and card will be checked, and depending on your experience and date of your last dive, you may be required to take a refresher dive.

This course is only open to certified Open Water divers. The course consists of 2 types of activities: classroom sessions and open water dives (3 Compulsory 'Core' dives, plus 2 optional Adventure Dives). Your Core dives will include a Deep Dive, and a Navigation Dive. Your optional dives will be selected from the following:

- Drift Dive
- Multilevel Dive
- Underwater Naturalist
- Photography
- Night Dive

Also sometimes available are:

- Peak Performance Buoyancy
- Search and Recovery.

This course is designed to enhance your knowledge and awareness of recreational diving. In the classroom, there will be knowledge development sessions, in the form of lectures, class participation

and discussion. There will also be text assignments and supplementary reading, and a final written exam. Most questions are either multiple choice or true/false.

Your Open Water Dives will involve planning, practice and evaluation. You will complete your skills development session, which will include (but is not limited to): developing natural navigational skills, concepts of limited visibility, search and recovery techniques, practising deep diving and decompression, shore diving techniques and peak buoyancy skills.

Overnight at hotel on Ko Tao (3xB).

DAY 7 / KO TAO, FREE TIME

After the course, we leave two completely free days for you to relax. You can use these days to explore some of the best dive sites available in the area, some of them world famous. Extra days in Ko Tao can be added upon request. If you want to do some extra dives, then you can either pre-book these or arrange them at the dive centre.

Some of the best local dive-sites include:

- **Chumphon Pinnacle:** Approx. 10 Km offshore this underwater granite plateau starts at a depth of 12m, with the walls dropping down to 24/32m. The top is covered with anemones, and you can see big groupers, barracudas, travellis, tuna, batfish, and occasionally reef and even whale sharks.
- **Southwest Pinnacle:** 10 Km south of Ko Tao. This granite boulder formation, with a max. depth of 28m is surrounded by colourful soft corals and offers you the opportunity to encounter big pelagic fish as well as leopard sharks.
- **Shark Island:** This is a small island south-east of Ko Tao, with an abundance of marine life, including reef fish, turtles, rays and much more. The depth ranges from 5-22m, but this site can be sometimes subject to strong currents, so it should only be dived by confident divers under supervision of an experienced dive master.

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• **White Rock:** With two underwater rock formations with hard and soft corals, separated by sand patches, this is a colourful tropical dive, ideal for underwater photography. Depths are 7-20m.

• **Green Rock:** An assembly of underwater rocks, west of Nang Yuan, with swim throughs, tunnels and small caves together with a large variety of marine life. At the deep end reef sharks are frequently spotted.

Overnight at hotel on Ko Tao (B).

DAY 7 EXTRA OPTIONS

Two extra dives

See pages 3-4 for details

DAY 8 / KO TAO, FREE DAY. OVERNIGHT TRAIN TO BANGKOK

Your last day in Ko Tao is left free for you to relax, before catching the afternoon ferry to Chumporn where you'll have a little free time to look around the town before taking the overnight sleeper train back to Bangkok. Extra days in Ko Tao can be added upon request. If you want to do some extra dives, then we can arrange these, **within the restrictions of the 24 hour diving and flying rule.**

Overnight on train to Bangkok (B).

DAY 8 EXTRA OPTIONS

Two extra dives

See pages 3-4 for details

DAY 9 / BANGKOK, FREE DAY

Upon arrival back in Bangkok we transfer you to your hotel, where the rest of your day is free to do some last minute shopping or a little more sightseeing.

Note: You can finish the tour and make your own arrangements after the train arrives in Bangkok, or fly home today if required (flights must leave after midday).

Overnight at hotel in Bangkok.

DAY 9 EXTRA OPTIONS

Early finish discount

See pages 3-4 for details

DAY 10 / TOUR ENDS

The tour ends after breakfast this morning. A departure airport transfer option is available if you are flying home today.

(B).

DAY 10 EXTRA OPTIONS

Departure airport transfer

See pages 3-4 for details

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 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 Standard 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

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later on.

Note: Couples will always be given a private double room where possible and triple/family rooms are available on request.

Book in advance. Pay in advance.

Extra days

These are available on request in Bangkok before and after the tour starts and finishes and also in Ko Tao. If you'd like to include extra days 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

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

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 9 or 10 of the tour.

Book & pay in advance OR in Bangkok.

Early finish discount

If you want to finish the tour with us as soon as you arrive in Bangkok on Day 9, then this option removes the cost of your transfer from the station to our hotel, and the last night in the hotel.

You can still add a departure airport transfer option to your booking if you finish on Day 9.

Book in advance. Pay in advance.

Refresher dive

If you have not dived for over 6 months, then you must do a refresher dive before you can start the course. An instructor will go over your skills and knowledge with you, to ensure you are ready to dive again, with a buddy but without hands-on supervision. You can also take up this option if you just want to brush up on your skills before starting your diving.

Book & pay in advance OR in Ko Tao.

2 Extra dives

This option adds 2 extra dives into your tour, to be arranged during your free time in Ko Tao. You can arrange exactly when and where to take these dives with the dive school while you are in Thailand.

We can also offer more extra dives if required - please contact us for more details and prices.

Book & pay in advance OR in Ko Tao.

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
- Entrance fees to sites visited on the Bangkok tour
- Services of dive masters and instructors as indicated on the itinerary
- All diving Instruction and course fees
- Provision of all diving equipment
- PADI Certificate proving completion of course

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- International airfares
- Visa costs
- Airport transfers (available as extra options)

- 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
- PADI Dive manual (see below)

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 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.

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:

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 includes 2nd class overnight sleeper trains, local buses and local ferries. We also use private transport, i.e. pick-up trucks and minibuses where necessary.

On the sleeper train a mattress, sheet, blanket & pillow are provided, and each carriage has its own guard who keeps it clean and can provide meals and drinks to your seat.

A variety of local dive-boats are used to access the diving sites.

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10 DAYS / PRIVATE TOUR / DIVING TRIP

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.

DIVING:

When you are booking dive(s) and diving courses in advance, you should consider the possibility that you might not elect (for whatever reason) to use one or more of those dives. Dives are strictly non-transferable, and no refund would be issued if you did not use up all your dives. In the eventuality of a diving problem occurring whilst on one of our dive packages or courses, unfortunately no refund can be issued.

More information on diving with us is available on the diving pages of our website.

DOCUMENTATION:

You will be expected to produce evidence of Certification and proof of your last dives, before commencing any diving with us in Thailand. Requirements for this tour are the **PADI Open Water Course** (or equivalent).

Proof of previous dives will be expected in the form of a logbook, complete with stamps (from a Dive Centre). If you cannot produce this evidence the Dive Centre will reserve the right to refuse your diving at their discretion. No refund would be issued in this event, so please be sure you have your logbook and card with you.

If you have not dived within the last 6 months, then you will be required to complete a Refresher Dive before continuing with your pre-booked dives.

PADI COURSE MANUAL: £30 P/P LOCAL PAYMENT:

Dive-centres are no longer allowed to provide course manuals for you just for the duration of the course. You now need to purchase your own, and keep it with you when you go home. This cost is to be paid to the dive centre before you start diving. The Advanced Open Water Course manual price is set by the dive centre, and is approx. 2000 Baht or £30 p/p (the exact price will be set by the centre on your arrival based on current exchange rates).

EXTRA DIVES:

We cannot guarantee that all of the dive sites and options on approved diving courses will always be available. Changes will occur (subject to availability) and are entirely at the Dive Centre's discretion. Also, we cannot confirm where you will do any 'Extra Dives' that you book. The Dive Centre will endeavour to satisfy customers where possible, but it is entirely at the Dive Centre's discretion and local diving conditions at the time.

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 all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary.

Camera and video fees may be applied at some of the sites, and these are not included in the price.

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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10 DAYS / PRIVATE TOUR / DIVING TRIP

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. On diving trips that include a PADI diving qualification, there is an approx. UK£30 local payment, to cover the cost of your course manual, not included in the price of the tour.

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, meaning the seasons detailed below are not fixed.

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 Koh 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. We do not generally run any group diving tours from late-October until mid-December, as the monsoon rains and winds can make the water conditions unsuitable and visibility poor. The poorer diving conditions may extend either side of this period in some years.

Each of the seasons has its own charms and its difficulties, but one of the reasons we have chosen Koh Tao for this tour is its long diving season and great visibility.

HEALTH:

Scuba-diving has its own special considerations with regard to your health. Please ensure you read the medical information on our website relating to scuba-diving. We will also send you a copy of the standard PADI medical questionnaire after you have booked, which you will need to complete before you start any diving.

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 areas visited in this tour are 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.

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 and 'Like' us.

You can also follow us on Twitter - www.twitter.com/utworld

We are fully bonded for your complete financial protection.



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

www.uncovertheworld.com

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