

Wet & Wild in Thailand

12 DAYS / SMALL GROUP OR PRIVATE TOUR / FAMILY TOUR

This family adventure tour features a wide range of activities and destinations to give your family a fun and rewarding holiday in Thailand. We spend time in Bangkok itself, staying in a beautiful 5-star hotel and including a bike ride and boat trip, before heading to Khao Sok National Park for some jungle wildlife safaris and lake trips. We then spend time by the beach in Krabi, including some kayaking and snorkelling as well as plenty of free time, before returning to Bangkok.

TOUR FACTS

Tour Code:	FATHWW
Group Size & Age:	Min. - 3 Max. - 16 / Min. age - 7
Travel Idea:	Family Tour
Activity Level:	Moderate
Comfort Rating:	Standard
Accommodation:	7 nights in hotels, 2 nights in rafhouses, 1 night in treehouses, 1 overnight train
Transport:	Internal flight, 2nd class A/C sleeper train, minibus, pick-up truck

YOUR 12 DAY TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Arrive in Bangkok. Transfer from airport to hotel.
- Day 2:** Bangkok - Grand Palace tour, afternoon free.
- Day 3:** Bangkok - Cycling tour & boat ride, overnight train to Surat Thani.
- Day 4:** Transfer to Khao Sok National Park, local village & caves tour.
- Day 5:** Khao Sok National Park - Boat ride and hike.
- Day 6:** Khao Sok National Park - Jungle trek and river canoeing.
- Day 7:** Khao Sok - Free time, then drive to Krabi.
- Day 8:** Krabi - Boat cruise.
- Day 9:** Krabi - Mangrove kayaking.
- Day 10:** Krabi - Free time.
- Day 11:** Krabi - Free time, then fly back to Bangkok.
- Day 12:** Bangkok - Free time. Transfer to airport for flight home.

“Would you like to combine this tour with a time in the North of Thailand? ...then check out our Elephants & Rafts, and Discover Thailand tours, both of which have departures timed to finish just before this tour starts”



FLIGHT BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

See page 5 for details

Regular small-group departures run during UK holiday periods. Please call or check the website for dates and prices. Private and tailor-made options also available on request.

Please refer to page 3 or website for details.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Bangkok sightseeing, Khao Sok National Park, Lake Canoeing, Jungle Walks, Krabi's beaches, Mangrove & canyon Kayaking.

FLIGHTS INCLUDED:*
X

LOCAL PAYMENT:
X

ENTRANCE FEES:
✓

AIRPORT TRANSFERS:
✓

**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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Wet & Wild in Thailand continued...

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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 TOUR

We leave your morning free today to relax after your flights, and to enjoy the hotel facilities. We'll pick you up after an early lunch in the hotel, for an afternoon 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. We also take time to visit nearby Wat Pho temple, Bangkok's oldest and largest Wat, and home to the largest reclining Buddha.

Overnight on sleeper train to Chiang Mai (B).

DAY 3 / BANGKOK CYCLING TOUR & BOAT RIDE, OVERNIGHT TRAIN TO SURAT THANI

This morning we transfer to the Bangkok countryside for our cycling tour. We start at the Kamalulislam mosque, hub of the local Muslim community. Riding along canals we glimpse the harmonious lifestyles of Thai families, fish farms, rice mills, traditional Thai wooden houses and the old market town of Nong Chock. Here we trade our bikes for boats and complete our journey with a river cruise down the Saen Seab canal.

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 L).

DAY 4 / SURAT THANI, TRANSFER TO KHAO SOK

We arrive in Surat Thani in the morning and after stopping for breakfast, will then transfer by road to Khao Sok National Park. The park comprises 656 sq. km. of dense rainforest with waterfalls, limestone cliffs, numerous streams, an island-studded lake, and many riverside walking trails. Late in the morning we'll take a walk in the Park with an experienced local jungle guide. After lunch it's time for an easy walk into the surrounding area to visit some small caves and a village temple. We spend the night in large treehouses (complete with proper beds, shower and toilet), right up in the forest canopy (see accommodation section below for more information).

Overnight at tree houses lodge in Khao Sok (L D).

DAY 5 / KHAO SOK, BOAT RIDE & HIKE

After breakfast we transfer by open pick-up truck to the Raja Phraba Lake. Here we take a boat to our accommodation, which comprises raft houses, floating on the lake, arriving in time for lunch. After settling in and taking lunch, we will take a boat trip to another part of the National Park for a 2 to 3-hour hike to a wonderful vantage point giving a dramatic and panoramic view of the lake and the surrounding limestone mountains. Then it is back to the raft houses for dinner and some relaxation. After dinner you can take a guided walk to observe the natural nightlife of the rainforest.

Overnight at raft houses in Khao Sok (B L D).

DAY 6 / KHAO SOK, BOAT RIDE

It's an early morning today as we take a longer hike into the jungle to observe and learn more about the local flora and fauna. We'll view local wildlife, giant trees - some with huge buttress roots, wild

orchids, ferns and much more. We then return to the raft houses for a late lunch and the rest of the afternoon is free to relax. Various options are available to swim, or go tubing on the river.

Overnight at raft houses in Khao Sok (B L D).

DAY 7 / KHAO SOK, FREE TIME, TRANSFER TO KRABI

This morning is free time for you to enjoy more options or just to relax in the park's wonderful natural surroundings. After lunch we provide a private transfer to the idyllic beach resort of Krabi. After your last couple of nights in basic accommodation, we provide a luxurious beach resort with lots of facilities, swimming pools, and normally a private beach. You will have a good afternoon just to relax on the beach after your exertions of the last few days in the park.

Overnight at hotel in Krabi (B L).

DAY 8 / KRABI, BOAT CRUISE

We start our time in Krabi with a cruise to visit some of the most beautiful beaches, islands and coral reefs in the area. We set-off after breakfast on a 20-minute boat ride passing scenic beaches, off-shore islands and spectacular limestone rock formations. We'll stop for two hours on Rai Leh Beach, one of the most beautiful and romantic beaches in Thailand, with time for swimming, rock climbing or trekking up the mountain for a breathtaking view of the lagoon. We then continue by boat to Chicken and Tab Islands, connected by a white sand bar. Here there is time to snorkelling over the stunning corals and swim with dazzling schools of fish.

Overnight at hotel in Krabi (B L).

DAY 9 / KRABI, MANGROVE KAYAKING

Today we take an easy kayaking trip to explore the mangrove forests and river estuary, and to admire their fascinating ecological systems. There should be a chance to see water monitor, monkeys,

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and gibbons. After paddling through mangrove forests, the day's highlight will be passing beneath the Khanab Nam Mountain, a magnificent canyon covered with wild flora and extending for some 400 meters. The afternoon is free to relax and soak up the sun back in your hotel.

Overnight at hotel in Krabi (B L).

DAY 10 / KRABI, FREE TIME

We leave the whole of today free for you to relax and enjoy the idyllic surrounding here in Krabi. Alternatively you may wish to take up the option of a day rock climbing on Rai Leh beach, without doubt Thailand's most developed and extensive climbing area. With over 500 bolted routes in walking distance, the ability to belay off the beach in many areas and all year round sunshine, this has deservedly become one of the world's top climbing holiday destinations. There are also more kayaking and boat trips available, or a local village tour where you can learn the art of batik and see how the rubber trees are tapped.

Overnight at hotel in Krabi (B).

DAY 10 EXTRA OPTIONS

Cave Kayaking

Rock climbing

See page 3 for details

DAY 11 / KRABI, FREE TIME, BUS & FLIGHT TO BANGKOK

Most of today is completely free for you to do a much or a little as you like. Late in the afternoon we will transfer you Krabi airport for your short internal flight back to Bangkok, and from there on to your hotel.

Overnight at hotel in Krabi (B).

DAY 12 / TOUR ENDS

Your day is free until we transfer you to the airport in time for your

flight home. (B).

DAY 12 EXTRA OPTIONS

Damnoen Saduak floating market half-day tour

See pages 3-4 for details

SMALL GROUP, PRIVATE AND TAILOR-MADE TOURS

SMALL GROUP DEPARTURES:

We have regular small group departures on this tour during UK school holidays. 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 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 one of the family a single room throughout the tour, then we need to add a single supplement charge.

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

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 (single supplements apply). Please contact us for prices to fit your family make-up.

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.

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Cave kayaking

This option takes you for a day of kayaking through stunning caves to see marvellous stalagmites and stalactites. Then paddle through mangrove forests, the river estuary and finally up river, passing through Lod Cave, beneath the mountains to the Great Spirit or Skull Caves, famous for their pre-historic paintings and early human remains.

Book in Krabi. Pay in Krabi.

Rock climbing

Today you can spend a full day rock climbing on Rai Leh beach on any of the over 500 world class bolted routes. All equipment and a guide will be supplied.

Book in Krabi. Pay in Krabi.

Damnoen Saduak floating market tour

This half day tour runs from around 07.00-11.30 and leaves Bangkok for Ban Paew to start a boat cruise along the Damnoen Saduak Canal where you enjoy the beautiful sights along the way and witness the day-to-day activities of the Thai people who live on the canals. The cruise ends at the most colorful floating market in Thailand, where numerous fruit, vegetables, and a myriad other goods are sold on the water.

Book & Pay in advance or in Thailand.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- All accommodation (see below)
- Internal flight from Krabi to Bangkok
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Entrance fees (including park entrance fee)
- 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 Family tours in Thailand use a wide range of different accommodation from basic bamboo huts and tree-houses to luxurious 5-star hotels. The itinerary has been designed so that you switch between these to maintain a balance of comfort and adventure.

Khao Sok tree houses:

There are seven individual tree houses and one tree house with 3 individual rooms. They are quite high in the forest canopy (one tree house is at a lower level for those with a fear of heights), complete with sturdy stairways and handrails. Facilities are basic but comfortable with private toilet and cold water shower, double bed and mosquito net (an extra single bed in triple rooms). Our backdrop is a limestone mountain with interesting caves to explore. A hundred metres away from tree houses is the dining and relaxing area which is located in a classic Thai house.

The long ladders up to the tree-houses in Khao Sok are un-suitable for children aged 7-11 due to the large steps, and alternative accommodation lower down will be arranged for families with younger children.

Khao Sok raft houses:

On the Raja Phraba lake there are seven individual raft houses each equipped with double beds and mosquito net and a 3 room raft house with 2 single beds (or one double bed if preferred). Extra mattresses and alternate rooming arrangements are available

depending on your family make-up. There are shared toilet facilities nearby. There is also a separate raft house to act as a restaurant and leisure area.

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.

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.*

ROOMING ARRANGEMENTS:

Not all of the hotels in Thailand offer bedding arrangements in their rooms that work well for families with children. We always try to use those that do, and will choose rooms most suitable to your family make-up and the age of your children. This may include rooms with 3 single beds, a double plus singles, extra roll-away beds for younger children, or connecting double & twin rooms. We cannot guarantee exactly what type of room you will have at the time of booking, but will always ensure that younger children either share the same room with their parents, or have a room with a connecting door to their parent's room.

If you want to guarantee yourself or one of your children a single room for the duration of the tour, then we will need to add a single supplement charge.

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SEA KAYAKING:

The seas around Krabi where we enjoy the kayaking are shallow and very calm. Life-jackets are provided. The kayaks seat two people, and all equipment is provided.

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 trains with air conditioned berths, local buses and local ferries. We also use private transport, i.e. pick-up trucks and minibuses where necessary.

We will book your internal flight from Krabi to Bangkok in advance, and the cost of this will be added to our normal deposit payment.

TRANSFERS:

The tour includes both your arrival and departure airport 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.

Note: For groups of under 6 people we may use separate guides in Bangkok and for the Khao-Sok/Krabi section (i.e. you will not be accompanied on the overnight train, but our reps will be there for all the other transfers for you).

GROUP SIZES & AGES:

In order to provide the most personal service, and to make sure that you get as much out of our tours as possible, we like to keep our tour groups small, so there are just a few families travelling together. We therefore set the maximum number at 16 and the minimum at 3 people. The minimum age for children to join the tour is 7 years at the date of travel. Average ages of children travelling on this tour tend to be from 9 to 14. We may run several groups on each departure date and as far as possible will split these groups up so that children of similar ages travel together.

The long ladders up to the tree-houses in Khao Sok are unsuitable for children aged 7-11 due to the large steps, and alternative accommodation lower down will be arranged for families with younger children.

You can join our group departures as any kind of family, as long as at least 1 child under 16 is present. Grandparents are welcome to join the tour, but if your party has a very high ratio of adults to children, then we would recommend you think about joining one of our Standard or Superior level tours. Please contact us for more information and advice if required.

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.

ENTRANCE FEES:

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites and National Parks mentioned in the itinerary.

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

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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:

Our small group departure dates are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet (available on request). These have been timed to depart during the main UK school holidays, while taking into account the weather in Thailand.

We can also run the tour privately for your family, or a group of families on any other dates for a small supplement, or customise the itinerary to make a tailor-made tour to fit your personal requirements.

Discounts are offered for children aged 7-11 who have their own room, while larger discounts are available for single children aged 7-11 who share a room with 2 adults. Single children sharing a room with a single adult will pay the full tour price. Please contact our knowledgeable sales staff for details and for more help on creating the right tour for your family and budget.

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.

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.

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