

Snakehead Explorer

8 DAYS / PRIVATE TOUR / FISHING HOLIDAY

Fishing doesn't get any more exciting than hunting down the aggressive giant snakehead, surrounded by beautiful jungle scenery. Stalk your prey from small boats and then hold on as these powerful and ferocious fish do battle with you in a game of cat and mouse that will surely leave you breathless with excitement. This tour takes you to Si Nakharin reservoir, just a short drive from Bangkok, and offers you a perfect opportunity to fish for this hard-fighting and elusive fish.

TOUR FACTS

Tour Code:	FITHSX
Group Size & Age:	Min. - 1 Max. - 4 (fishing) / Min. age - 12
Travel Idea:	Fishing Holiday
Activity Level:	Mild
Comfort Rating:	Basic
Accommodation:	2 nights in 3-star hotel, 5 nights in floating teakwood house
Transport:	Air-conditioned bus/minibus/car

YOUR 8 DAY TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Arrive in Bangkok. Transfer from airport to hotel.
- Day 2:** Drive to Si Nakharin Reservoir, visit Kanchanaburi.
- Day 3:** Si Nakharin - Full day fishing.
- Day 4:** Si Nakharin - Full day fishing.
- Day 5:** Si Nakharin - Full day fishing.
- Day 6:** Si Nakharin - Full day fishing.
- Day 7:** Si Nakharin - Half-day fishing, transfer back to Bangkok.
- Day 8:** Bangkok - Free time. Transfer to airport for flight home.

Note: Availability is not normally a problem with this tour but please check before booking and book early to be safe. Prices and itineraries available for non-anglers on request.



FLIGHT BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

See page 3 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:

Fishing for Snakehead, Bangkok Sights.

FLIGHTS INCLUDED:*
✗

LOCAL PAYMENT:
✗

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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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 2 / TRANSFER TO SI NAKHARIN RESERVOIR, VIA KANCHANABURI

Early this morning we make the 5-hour drive to Si Nakharin reservoir, stopping at Kanchanaburi en-route. Kanchanaburi is a small town made famous as the site of the bridge on the River Kwai. Here you are free to visit the local museum and what remains of the original bridge, built by POWs during the Second World War, or maybe even take a ride on the death railway. From here we continue on to the reservoir, arriving early afternoon.

Our accommodation is in a comfortable floating teakwood house, so there are no long transfers before or after your fishing.

Overnight at reservoir in teakwood house (B D).

DAY 3-6 / FISHING AT SI NAKHARIN RESERVOIR

We spend the next 3 days fishing this beautiful reservoir. We use a high powered speedboat to easily and quickly get to and from the best fishing spots.

A true angler's paradise, Si Nakharin – which is located in the jungle of Kanchanaburi province – is the largest (100 kms long) and wildest reservoir to be found in Thailand. This body of water offers excellent lure fishing for all snakehead species and jungle perch, as well as bottom fishing for various Thai fish species of interest. The reservoir's Giant Snakehead (*Channa micropeltes*) population is big, and numerous catches by our clients have been well over the 5 kg

mark, the biggest catches being weighted on certified scales at 6.00 kg.

At the end of each day you can relax in your comfortable floating house, eating traditional Thai food, drinking cool beers and watching the sun go down over serene jungle views.

Overnight at reservoir in teakwood house (4xB 4xL 4xD).

DAY 7 / HALF-DAY FISHING AT SI NAKHARIN, RETURN TO BANGKOK

After a final half-day of fishing at the reservoir we drive back to Bangkok, where the evening is free for you to relax and enjoy Bangkok by night.

Overnight at hotel in Bangkok (B L).

DAY 8 / TOUR ENDS

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

Extensions are also available on this tour to visit Ankor Wat in Cambodia, or to head to the beach for some rest and relaxation. Please contact us for details.

(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.

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Single room supplement

If you are a single traveller, then we do need to add a single supplement charge. This guarantees you a single room for the 2 nights in the Bangkok hotel. You can also choose to book a single supplement if you are travelling with other people but require a room on your own.

If you are travelling in an odd numbered party (i.e. 3 people, 5 people etc.), then we may be able to offer triple rooms in Bangkok if required. Please contact us for details.

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. If you'd like to add extra days into the time elsewhere, then please request a tailor-made tour.

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

Book in advance. Pay in advance.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- All accommodation (see below)
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all sites mentioned in the itinerary
- All transfers, including 24-hour airport transfer service
- Tours & guides as indicated in the itinerary
- Fishing licence
- Speed boats at Si Nakharin
- All transport

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- International airfares
- Visa costs
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Fishing tackle at Si Nakharin
- Travel insurance - please see the policies available on our website
- Any other items not mentioned above

ACCOMMODATION:

Our basic rating is only used where the level of services available for a major portion of the tour is very limited. This might include the use of homestays, treehouses and camps, or fishing bivvies. This level of tour is suitable for anyone wishing to spend some time off the beaten path and therefore accept a lower level of comfort. The tours will often still include some several nights in around 2, 3 or 4-star level hotels.

Si Nakharin:

At Si Nakharin reservoir you stay at a small fishing village resort which consists of a collection of simple bungalows floating on pontoons made of silky smooth teak, lovely to walk on in bare feet. In windy weather, the pontoons may be moved around during the day into more comfortable locations, and it's possible to come home every night to find your pontoon has disappeared over to the other side of the village. You will have a simple, clean room with electric light and a floor fan, a foam mattress with sheets and pillows, and an adjoining washroom/toilet, with cold water. In this climate, life is mainly lived in the open, so your bungalow has a large covered veranda where you can sit and enjoy a drink and a chat, or snooze in a hammock. Meals are organized by our guides and are taken as a group in the floating open air restaurant. The food here is sensational, Thai of course, absolutely fresh, and will consist of dishes such as chicken with cashew nuts, wild boar, wild deer, tempura prawns with vegetables and of course the famous Tom Yum soup. Think Chinese food but a little lighter and spicier,

and you have the idea. Western and local beers and soft drinks are available and cheap. You'll get back from fishing, wash and change, drink a beer and a Thai feast will be waiting on the table.

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. Speedboats are used on the reservoir.

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.

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FISHING LICENCE:

Your fishing licences are included in the cost of the tour, and will be obtained on your behalf by your guide when you arrive.

TACKLE REQUIRED:

The technique for Snakeheads & Jungle Perch is casting the lure in zones where you think the fish could be waiting for its prey, like you would spin for pike at home, casting to submerged trees, weed beds, small channels and so on. The snakehead is a fish that loves living on the bottom, but it is attracted by surface vibration and sounds; so every imitation of fish, frog or mouse presented on the surface, is the perfect lure for this predator fish.

Rods: Bait casting or spinning rods 6'2" - 7' - medium/heavy or heavy action.

Casting Reels: Should possess fast retrieve and have capacity to handle 30/40 lb braided line.

Braided Line: Big size Snakeheads make light work of monofilament line. Braided line is a must. Your braided line should be of 30 to 40 lb strength.

Hooks & Split Rings: The strongest stainless treble hooks and split rings are highly recommended.

Top Water Lures: The best top water lures for those predator species are handmade in Thailand by local Snakehead specialists. By experience, the T.Surf and the Addy lures are the very best. These lures are imitations of frogs, mice and small fish. Snakeheads are attracted by surface vibration and sounds so propellers of various sizes are added in front of the lure. We have been trying various models of foreign top water lures through the years but they don't work too well on the Shado. Except for the Luhr-Jensen company "woodchoppers" (medium size model for the Peacock Bass) and poppers (9cm Rapala skitter pop or Yozuri) that can be also very effective.

Rapalas: Rapala 11 FT MAG (fire tiger) and J 13 FT (fire tiger) are my all time favourite lures but all the models can be real "killers".

Spoons: Due to their heavy metal construction, spoons can be cast for long distances. And with a fast retrieve they make Jungle Perch strike more ferociously (silver shiny things are best). Snakeheads eventually go for them too.

TOUR LEADERS/GUIDES:

For this tour we provide fully trained, local English-speaking Thai guides for any sightseeing tours.

Our local reps in Bangkok are also at your service.

To help support the local people and economy, and 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.

Whilst fishing you will be looked after by one of our local professional guides, who will escort you throughout your fishing adventure. These guides have all been guiding for many years and their experience of the lakes is second to none. They will always provide you with help and advice on what works best and how to maximise your chance of catching that once in a lifetime fish.

ENTRANCE FEES:

The tour price includes entrance fees to any 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 check out the country guide pages on our website.

DATES & PRICES:

We do not run group departures on this tour, but can run it privately for you on any dates, or customise it to make a tailor-made tour to fit your personal requirements.

You can fish Si Nakharin reservoir all year round for Splendid, Dwarf and Emperor snakehead species. However, the better fishing is for Giant, Great and Striped snakehead, and for these fish, the season runs from February to October.

Please contact us to check availability and for help creating the right tour for you.

CLIMATE:

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

In the northern & central regions visited on this tour, 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.

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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.

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.



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