

Jungles & Islands from only £925pp*

14 DAYS / SMALL GROUP OR PRIVATE TOUR / STANDARD TOUR /



thailand
uncovered

This tour is an extended version of our Khao Sok Jungle Safari. After exploring the rural sides of Bangkok, we head south to enjoy some of Thailand's beautiful natural environment. Taking in Khao Sok National Park, with its limestone cliffs, forests and lakes, and then heading to the islands of Ko Samui and Ko Tao, this tour gives a taste of the huge variety of spectacular countryside and wildlife Thailand has to offer.



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:

Bangkok sightseeing, Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, Khao Sok National Park, River Canoeing, Jungle Walks, Ko Samui beaches, Ang Thong Marine Park.

FLIGHT BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

See page 5 for details

FLIGHTS INCLUDED:*
✗

LOCAL PAYMENT:
✗

ENTRANCE FEES:
✓

AIRPORT TRANSFERS:
✓

TOUR FACTS

Tour Code & Class:	WSTHJI / Standard
Group Size & Age:	Min. - 2 Max. - 12 / Min. age - 12
Activity - Wildlife:	Sightseeing, jungle walks, wildlife viewing and canoeing
Activity Level:	Medium
Accommodation:	7 nights in hotels, 3 nights in jungle lodges, 1 night in beach camp, 2 overnight train
Transport:	2nd class A/C sleeper train, pick-up truck, minibus, local bus, ferry
Meals:	10 Breakfasts (B), 6 Lunches (L) and 3 Dinners (D)

YOUR 14 DAY TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Arrive in Bangkok. Transfer from airport to hotel.
- Day 2:** Bangkok - Cycling tour, bird watching & boat ride.
- Day 3:** Bangkok - Floating market & handicrafts tour, then 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 & hike.
- Day 6:** Khao Sok National Park - Jungle trek & river canoeing.
- Day 7:** Khao Sok National Park - Free time, then ferry to Ko Samui.
- Day 8:** Ko Samui - Free time.
- Day 9:** Ko Samui - Transfer to Ang Thong Marine Park.
- Day 10:** Ang Thong - Free morning, transfer to Ko Samui.
- Day 11:** Ko Samui - Free time.
- Day 12:** Ko Samui - Free morning, ferry and overnight train to Bangkok.
- Day 13:** Bangkok - Free morning, long-tail boat canal tour.
- Day 14:** Bangkok - Free time. Transfer to airport for flight home.

**To book visit: www.thailand-uncovered.com,
email: tours@thailand-uncovered.com or call us on: +44 (0) 845 130 48 49
Please quote Tour Code: WSTHJI when booking**

* LAND ONLY PRICE, FLIGHT QUOTES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. / LAST AMENDED 14/08/2008 /

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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, CYCLING TOUR, BIRDWATCHING AND BOAT RIDE

This morning we explore Bangkok's pleasant countryside with an easy 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 visit the old market town of Nong Chock. Along the way there are excellent opportunities to view the varied local birdlife. At Nong Chock we trade our bikes for boats and complete our journey with a river cruise down the Saen Seab canal.

Overnight at hotel in Bangkok (B L).

DAY 3 / BANGKOK FLOATING MARKET & HANDICRAFT TOUR, OVERNIGHT TRAIN TO SURAT THANI

Early this morning we head out to one of the most authentic and colourful floating markets in the Kingdom at Damnoen Saduak, a district in Ratchaburi Province. En route, we make a stop at a house where home-made palm sugar is produced.

After the market we drive to Wat Don Wai, an old community with a lively street market, where local food and desserts are prepared. We then continue on to Wat Raiking, which is famous for its holy-

water and fish sanctuary, passing orchards and orchid farms along the way. After lunch we visit a hand-made ceramics works, famous for its five-colour Benjarong ceramics. Originating in China these traditional designs were very popular around the mid 19th century. In the evening we board the sleeper 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 NATIONAL PARK

We arrive in Surat Thani in the morning and after 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 2-3-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, JUNGLE WALK, LAKE ACTIVITIES

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, THEN FERRY TO KO SAMUI

This morning is free time for you to enjoy more options or just to relax in the park's wonderful natural surroundings. Later in the morning we drive back to Surat Thani for your late afternoon ferry crossing to Ko Samui and our hotel on the beach.

Overnight at hotel in Ko Samui (B).

DAY 8 / KO SAMUI, FREE TIME

Today is completely free for you to enjoy your time on this beautiful island. There are many optional activities available or perhaps just relax and soak up the sun. Exploring the island by scooter is a good option and many great restaurants and bars await you this day.

Overnight at hotel on Ko Samui (B).

DAY 8 EXTRA OPTIONS

Scuba diving options

See pages 3-4 for details

DAY 9 / KO SAMUI, TRANSFER TO ANG THONG MARINE PARK

In the morning we transfer to the pier for a speedboat ride to Ang Thong Marine Park. On arrival we will enjoy the spectacular scenery of this national park, with more than 40 islands dotting the emerald waters of the Gulf of Thailand. Stops will be made for snorkelling and also at Ko Mae Ko for a stunning view of the inland lake, before

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continuing on to Ko Wua Lap, for lunch. Ko Wua Lap offers an excellent opportunity to canoe around the island, trek up the hill for scenic views, go cave exploring or just swim amongst the stunning coral reefs. Our night will be spent either in tented accommodation or basic bungalows.

Overnight at camp on Ang Thong (B L).

DAY 10 / ANG THONG, FREE TIME THEN TRANSFER BACK TO KO SAMUI

Today is free for you to enjoy more exploring of this wonderful wildlife retreat, or to get in some more relaxing before a late afternoon boat ride back to Ko Samui.

Overnight at hotel on Ko Samui.

DAY 11 / KO SAMUI, FREE TIME

We leave the whole of the day today free for you to enjoy your time on the island. There are many optional activities available or you can just relax and soak up the sun.

Overnight at hotel on Ko Samui (B).

DAY 11 EXTRA OPTIONS

Scuba diving options

See pages 3-4 for details

DAY 12 / KO SAMUI, FREE MORNING THEN FERRY & OVERNIGHT TRAIN TO BANGKOK

This morning is free to enjoy a last bit of sunbathing or swimming, before our ferry ride back to Surat Thani. From Surat Thani we catch the overnight sleeper train back to Bangkok, where we transfer to our hotel.

Overnight on train to Bangkok (B).

DAY 13 / BANGKOK, CITY CANALS TOUR

This morning is free for you to relax after the overnight train journey and to settle into your hotel (you may need to wait a little before rooms are available to check-in). 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.

DAY 14 / TOUR ENDS

Your day is free until we transfer you to the airport in time for your flight home. As many flights leave Bangkok in the evening, you have time during the day to do some more tours, and we offer a range of options including a morning visit to the Damnoen Saduak floating market or a full day tour to Kanchanaburi and bridge on the River Kwai.

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

(B).

DAY 14 EXTRA OPTIONS

Kanchanaburi River Kwai day trip Damnoen Saduak floating market

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 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: £160

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 later on.

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 - Price: £20-£35 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 (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.

Scuba diving - Price: on request

We offer a wide range of PADI diving courses for divers of all levels of experience to do during your time in Thailand (some activities may need to be missed out if you do a diving course). Alternatively you can just try an introductory dive or two. Experienced & qualified divers have a wider range of dive sites available to choose from. These can all be arranged in advance or with our representatives in Bangkok & Koh Samui.

Further information is available on request.

Book & Pay in advance OR in Bangkok.

Kanchanaburi River Kwai day trip - Price: £50 p/p (min 2)

This option leaves Bangkok early in the morning (around 06.30) and takes you on a trip by road to historic Kanchanaburi (approx 3 hours drive), with visits to the Allied War Cemetery, war museum and the bridge over the River Kwai. You then take a train journey on the Death Railway, over the bridges and a spectacular wooden viaduct built by the POWS. The tour also features a short long-tailed boat trip along the Kwai Noi. Lunch is included, normally at a restaurant by the river. You will get back to Bangkok at around 18.00.

Book & Pay in advance OR in Thailand.

Damnoen Saduak floating market tour - Price: £40 p/p

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)
- 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
- Sleeping bag (for Ang Thong)
- Travel insurance - please see the policies available on our website
- Any other items not mentioned above

ACCOMMODATION:

Our Standard tours use good quality hotels at approx. 3-star level, in which all rooms have air-conditioning and en-suite bathrooms.

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

Hotels used on this tour (subject to availability):

Bangkok (3-star):

- Narai Hotel, Royal Benja Hotel.

Ko Samui (3-star):

- Samui Park Resort (villa).

Khao Sok tree houses:

- There are seven individual tree houses and one tree house with

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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 will be arranged lower down 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.

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

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 may include 2nd class overnight sleeper trains, local buses and local ferries. We also use private transport including jeeps, song-thaews or pick-up trucks, and minibuses for the sightseeing tours where required.

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 to act as your tour leader. Specialist local guides are also used in the National Parks.

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 6 people we may use separate guides in Bangkok and for the southern sections (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 all the tourist sites and National Parks 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 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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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.

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 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 & Koh Tao, the '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!

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.

Note: *The National Parks visited on 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.

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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