



## BEST OF THAILAND 13N/14D

### TOUR SUMMARY

Embark on an unforgettable 13-night/14-day journey through Thailand, blending cultural discovery, natural wonders, and authentic local experiences. From the glittering temples of **Bangkok** to the ancient ruins of **Ayutthaya** and **Sukhothai**, this tour takes you through the very heart of Thai history. Discover the artistic and spiritual richness of **Chiang Mai** and **Chiang Rai**, where golden stupas, hill tribe traditions, and ethical elephant sanctuaries offer a deeper connection to Northern Thailand's heritage.

Continue south to the turquoise waters and iconic islands of **Phuket and Phi Phi**, where relaxing beach time meets tropical adventure. Along the way, enjoy hands-on experiences—from craft villages and local markets to a Khantoke dinner and Thai cooking sessions. Thoughtfully paced and rich in variety, this tour is designed for travellers seeking a seamless blend of culture, nature, and leisure across Thailand's most iconic and inspiring regions.

**Best time:** October - February

**Note:** While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, this itinerary is intended as a guide and may include unintentional errors or be subject to adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances.



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## ***Detailed Itinerary***

### **DAY 1: Arrival in Bangkok – Welcome and Orientation**

Upon arrival at Bangkok Airport, you will be warmly welcomed by our dedicated staff. Enjoy a comfortable transfer to your hotel for check-in. Later, attend an informative orientation session conducted by our experienced tour manager to familiarize yourself with the itinerary and local culture. In the evening, savour a delightful dinner and unwind with an overnight stay at your hotel in Bangkok.

### **DAY 2: Discover the iconic landmarks and cultural treasures of Bangkok on a guided city tour.**

Begin your day with visits to the Grand Palace and Wat Phra Kaew, home to the revered Emerald Buddha. Continue to Wat Pho, famous for its majestic Reclining Buddha and traditional Thai massage school.

In the afternoon, explore the vibrant streets of Khao San Road or enjoy shopping and riverfront views at Asiatique.

**Cultural Highlight:** Experience the rich artistic heritage of Thailand with a traditional Thai puppet show at Joe Louis Theatre or a mesmerizing Khon masked dance performance.

Enjoy a delicious lunch at a local Thai restaurant. Return to your hotel for dinner and an overnight stay in Bangkok.

### **DAY 3: Experience the charm of Thailand's unique markets on a full-day excursion from Bangkok.**

Begin with a visit to the Maeklong Railway Market, where you'll witness the fascinating spectacle of vendors swiftly retracting their stalls as a train passes right through the centre of the market—a truly unforgettable moment best seen during scheduled train times.



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Next, journey to the picturesque Amphawa Floating Market. Explore its bustling canals by boat, sampling fresh seafood and soaking in the market's nostalgic atmosphere steeped in local tradition.

**Optional Experience:** As evening falls, embark on a serene firefly cruise to see the mangroves glow with natural luminescence.

Enjoy lunch at a local Thai restaurant, followed by dinner and an overnight stay at your hotel in Bangkok.

### DAY 4: Cultural Journey to Ayutthaya

Embark on a scenic journey from Bangkok to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ayutthaya, the former royal capital of Siam, rich in history and architectural splendour.

Begin your exploration at **Wat Mahathat**, famous for the iconic Buddha head entwined within the roots of a Bodhi tree—one of Thailand's most photographed spiritual landmarks. Continue to **Wat Phra Si Sanphet**, once the grandest temple in the Ayutthaya Kingdom, known for its elegant chedis and royal significance.

Enhance your cultural experience with a visit to a **local crafts village**, such as the Aranyik knife-making village, where you can see traditional blacksmithing in action, or a **Thai doll workshop** that showcases intricate handmade figurines reflecting Thai folklore.

In the evening, for an overnight stay at a charming riverside boutique property in Ayutthaya.

Dinner and overnight stay in Ayutthaya



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## **DAY 5: Bangkok – Flight to Sukhothai | Explore Thailand's First Capital**

After breakfast, take a short domestic flight from Bangkok to the charming town of **Sukhothai**, the cradle of Thai civilization and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Begin your exploration at the **Sukhothai Historical Park**, where ancient temples and lotus-filled ponds paint a vivid picture of the 13th-century kingdom. Discover the ruins by **bicycle or electric buggy**, passing serene Buddha statues and well-preserved chedis amidst tranquil surroundings.

For those with extra time and curiosity, an optional visit to the lesser-known but equally impressive **Si Satchanalai Historical Park** offers a deeper dive into the region's architectural heritage.

Enrich your cultural experience with a stop at a **Sangkhalok pottery workshop**, where artisans continue the legacy of centuries-old ceramic craftsmanship unique to the Sukhothai region.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Dinner and an overnight stay at a comfortable hotel in Sukhothai.

## **DAY 6: Sukhothai to Chiang Mai – Scenic Drive & Cultural Evening (6 hours approx.)**

Depart Sukhothai for a picturesque road journey to **Chiang Mai**, winding through the lush landscapes and rural heartlands of Northern Thailand. The scenic drive offers glimpses of traditional villages, rice fields, and forested hills, making it a peaceful and immersive transition into the north.

Upon arrival in Chiang Mai, unwind and get a taste of the city's vibrant atmosphere with a visit to the **Chiang Mai Night Bazaar** or the lively **Saturday Night Market** (depending on the day), known for local handicrafts, street food, and souvenirs.



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In the evening, experience a traditional **Khantoke Dinner**, a signature Northern Thai meal served in the classic Lanna style, accompanied by captivating **cultural dance performances** that celebrate the region's rich heritage.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant En route, and settle in for an overnight stay at your hotel in Chiang Mai.

### DAY 7: Discover Chiang Mai's Spiritual and Artisan Treasures

Begin your day exploring two of Chiang Mai's most revered temples: **Wat Phra Singh**, famed for its exquisite Lanna architecture and revered Buddha images, and **Wat Chedi Luang**, known for its towering ancient chedi and rich history.

In the afternoon, ascend to the majestic **Doi Suthep Temple**, perched on a mountain overlooking the city. Stay to witness a breathtaking **sunset view over Chiang Mai**, offering a serene and panoramic perspective of the region.

Continue your cultural immersion with a visit to **San Kamphaeng Craft Village**, where you can observe traditional artisans at work and explore workshops specializing in **silk weaving**, **silverwork**, and the intricate **umbrella painting** that reflect Northern Thailand's rich artistic heritage.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, followed by dinner and an overnight stay at your hotel in Chiang Mai.

### DAY 8: Chiang Mai – Ethical Elephant Sanctuary & Cultural Experiences

Spend a meaningful day connecting with Thailand's gentle giants at an **ethical elephant sanctuary** dedicated to responsible tourism, where riding is never allowed.

Learn about the life and care of elephants while practicing traditional **mahout commands**, and enjoy hands-on activities such as **bathing and feeding** these majestic creatures in their natural environment.



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For those interested, participate in an **optional evening cooking class** to master authentic **Northern Thai Lanna cuisine**, bringing home delicious new skills and flavours.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Dinner and an overnight stay at your hotel in Chiang Mai.

#### **DAY 9: Chiang Mai to Chiang Rai – Art, Culture & Riverside Charm**

Embark on a **scenic drive of approximately 3 hours** through Northern Thailand's lush countryside as you journey from Chiang Mai to the culturally rich city of **Chiang Rai**.

Upon arrival, explore some of Thailand's most visually striking and thought-provoking landmarks:

- **Wat Rong Khun (White Temple):** A contemporary masterpiece of Buddhist art, known for its intricate white facade and symbolic design elements.
- **Blue Temple (Wat Rong Suea Ten):** Renowned for its vivid sapphire interiors and glowing murals, blending tradition with modern creativity.
- **Baan Dam (Black House):** An eclectic collection of traditional Lanna-style buildings filled with dark, compelling artwork by national artist Thawan Duchanee.

In the evening, unwind with leisure time at a **riverside café** or stroll through **local tribal markets**, where you can discover unique handicrafts and regional flavours.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Overnight stay at your hotel in Chiang Rai.

#### **DAY 10: Chiang Rai – Golden Triangle Discovery**

Set out on a full-day excursion to the legendary **Golden Triangle**, where the borders of **Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar** meet at the confluence of the Mekong and Ruak Rivers.

Begin at the **Golden Triangle Viewpoint**, offering panoramic vistas and a glimpse into the geography and history that once defined this infamous region.



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Continue to the **Hall of Opium Museum**, a thoughtfully curated space that offers deep insight into the history of the opium trade, its impact on Southeast Asia, and efforts toward rehabilitation and education.

For those interested in cultural immersion, an **optional visit to a nearby hill tribe village** offers a respectful glimpse into the traditional lifestyle, crafts, and customs of Northern Thailand's indigenous communities.

Return to Chiang Rai by evening. Lunch at a local restaurant. Dinner and overnight stay at your hotel in Chiang Rai.

### **DAY 11: Chiang Rai – Flight to Phuket | Beachside Leisure & Local Flavours**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your **flight to Phuket**, either **via Bangkok or on a direct route**, depending on availability and schedule.

Upon arrival in Phuket, check in to your beachside resort and unwind with some well-deserved relaxation—**soak in the sun, stroll along the shoreline**, or take a refreshing dip in the sea.

In the evening, experience the island's lively culinary scene with a visit to a **seafood market** or browse the vibrant **local night market**, perfect for tasting street food, picking up souvenirs, and enjoying the tropical atmosphere.

Lunch En route or at the airport. Dinner and overnight stay at your hotel in Phuket.

### **DAY 12: Discover the Cultural and Scenic Highlights of Phuket**

Spend the day exploring the diverse charms of **Phuket**, where rich cultural heritage meets natural beauty.

Begin with a visit to **Old Phuket Town**, known for its colourful Sino-Portuguese architecture, quaint cafes, and vibrant street art. Continue to **Wat Chalong**, the island's most revered



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Buddhist temple, where locals and visitors come to pay respects and admire the ornate architecture.

Next, take in panoramic views from **Phuket's Big Buddha**, a serene hilltop statue offering sweeping vistas over the island. You may also stop at a **local cashew nut factory** or **traditional Thai house** to get a deeper feel for local life.

In the afternoon, enjoy a **cultural experience** such as a **Thai cooking class**, **Muay Thai demonstration**, or **batik painting session**, offering hands-on insight into Southern Thai traditions.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. In the evening, return to your hotel for dinner and an overnight stay in Phuket.

### **DAY 13: Phi Phi Islands Adventure & Return to Bangkok**

Start your day with a **ferry ride to the stunning Phi Phi Islands**, a tropical paradise known for turquoise waters, dramatic limestone cliffs, and postcard-perfect beaches.

Enjoy a day of **island-hopping**, where you'll explore hidden **sea caves**, swim in **crystal-clear lagoons**, and relax on sun-kissed shores. For the adventurous, there's an **optional sea kayaking experience at James Bond Island**, made famous by the iconic film.

Savour lunch at a local island restaurant, surrounded by spectacular views.

In the late afternoon, return to Phuket and transfer to the airport for your **flight to Bangkok**. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel.

Dinner and overnight stay in Bangkok.

### **DAY 14: Departure from Bangkok – Journey Home**

After breakfast, enjoy a **leisurely check-out** from your hotel. Depending on your international flight schedule, you may have some free time for last-minute shopping or a relaxing stroll nearby.



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You will then be **transferred to Bangkok Airport** for your onward flight, carrying with you unforgettable memories of Thailand's culture, landscapes, and warm hospitality.

**Tour Ends. Safe travels!**

TRAVEL OPTION PLUS



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