

11-Day Exotic Thailand Tour

Bangkok - Chiang Mai - Tha Ton - Chiang Rai - Golden Triangle - Bangkok

Thailand is the most unique country in South-east Asia - it has never been colonized; neither has it suffered from civil wars, racial or religious conflicts which plagued other countries in the region one time or another in history. This remarkable distinction in an often-volatile part of the world is celebrated in its name: Thailand, or Prathet Thai, means 'land of the free'. Besides invasion of the Burmese and Khmers, and briefly occupied by Japan during WWII; Thailand's escape from the domination of foreign powers for any extended period of time is reflected in the nature of its people. They're independent and very proud of their country. These traits are not exhibited in arrogance or intolerance but rather in self-assuredness, con-



confidence, and a generosity of spirit towards visitors. They're also a people who cherish their independence and firmly cling to the wonder of their past. Even as, for better or worse, the inevitable torrent of Western cultural leaves its marks on the country, the Thais strive to maintain their identity and uniqueness. Thailand's past, represented in its art, architecture, and religion is in itself reason enough to visit the country. But add to this an abundance of natural beauty, superb cuisines, and the traditional friendliness and hospitality of the Thai people, you will end up with an exceptionally memorable journey.



Eating and dining in Thailand should be one of the highlights of your visit. When it comes to food, Thailand is blessed. You can eat for a month without having to order the same dish twice. Nevertheless, once you have discovered a special favorite; you'll probably hook on to it for awhile. Each region in the country has its own specialties. Rice and noodle are major staples. With its proximity to the ocean and a robust agricultural industry, seafood and vegetable are popular dishes. Thai cuisines is known for its mixture of different herbs and spices which render unique flavors that never fail to surprise culinary enthusiasts.





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Tour Itinerary:

Day 01: U.S. - Bangkok
Depart U.S. for Bangkok.

Day 02: Bangkok
Arrive Bangkok, transfer to hotel after immigration formalities.

Day 03: Bangkok
A morning city tour will take you to visit Wat Traimitr (Golden Buddha Temple), where the 5.5-ton Golden Buddha is housed; then the Grand Palace and the Emerald Buddha Temple. Board a boat at the Tha Chang Pier and ride along the Chao Phraya River where you can observe the lifestyle of the people along the river's banks. Enjoy a dinner show at the Siam Niramit in the evening. (B/L/D)

Day 04: Bangkok
Take a drive to the Floating Market, you'll pass sea-salt farms en-route. A stop will be made at Tao Tarn where you can see how coconut sugar is traditionally made. Continue on to the Pichai Pier for a boat ride along the canals, passing through orchid plantations and houses on stilts and arrive at the Floating Market where fresh produce and food are sold from boats. Visit the Central Thai Handicraft Center to see the art of wood-carving and Mulberry's paper making. Enjoy a buffet lunch at the Rose Garden then see a Thai cultural show which includes traditional Thai wedding ceremony, bamboo dance and Thai boxing. (B/L)

Day 05: Bangkok - Chiang Mai
Transfer to airport for a domestic flight to Chiang Mai and tour the city after arrival. In the evening, enjoy a traditional Khan-toke (northern Thai) dinner and a hill-tribe dance show. (B/D)

Day 06: Chiang Mai
Tour the city of Chiang Mai. Visit Sankhampang, a village famous for its Thai silk and cotton weaving. (B/L)

Day 07: Chiang Mai
Tour to the Mae Sa Elephant Camp, observe how the elephants were trained to perform heavy labor and experience an elephant ride. A visit will be made to a local orchid farm. (B/L)

Day 08: Chiang Mai—Tha Ton—Chiang Rai
Depart Chiang Mai for Tha Ton on a scenic journey. After lunch, onward to Chiang Rai by boat along the Kok River and visit some hilltribe villages en-route. (B/L)

Day 09: Chiang Rai—Golden Triangle
A full day tour of Chiang Rai and surrounding area; visit the Yao and the Akha hilltribe villages in Mae Chan. Drive on to Mae Sai, the northernmost town in Thailand and bordering Burma, with its bustling market place. Lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, onward to the Golden Triangle area, where the borders of Thailand, Burma, and Laos convene. A place of mystery and excitement, serving for many years as the mysterious background of many spy novels and drug movies about opium warlords. Visit the Opium Museum. Continue on to the city of Chiang Saen on the steep banks of Mekhong river, opposite to Laos. Witness some magnificent ancient ruins and temples.

Day 10: Chiang Rai—Bangkok
Transfer to Chiang Rai Airport for domestic flight to Bangkok. Transfer to hotel after arrival. (B)

Day 11: Bangkok
A free day for you to explore Bangkok at your own pace. (B)

Day 12: Bangkok—U.S.
Transfer to Bangkok for departure. (B)

Optional Two-night Phuket extension after Chiang Rai

Day 01: Chiang Rai—Phuket
Transfer to Chiang Rai Airport for domestic flight to Phuket. Transfer to hotel after arrival. (B)

Day 02: Phuket
Morning tour of the island of Phuket. (B).

Day 03: Phuket—Bangkok
Transfer to Phuket for domestic flight to Bangkok. Transfer to your hotel after arrival. (B)

Standard Hotel Accommodations:

Bangkok: Asia Hotel.
Chiang Mai: Chiang Mai Orchid Hotel.
Chiang Rai: The Legend Chiang Rai.
Golden Triangle: Imperial Golden Triangle Hotel.
Phuket: Thara Patong Beach Resort & Spa.

Superior Hotel Accommodation:

Bangkok: La Bua at State Tower.
Chiang Mai: Rati Lanna Riverside Spa Resort.
Chiang Rai: The Legend Chiang Rai.
Golden Triangle: Imperial Golden Triangle.
Phuket: Duangjitt Resort & Spa.

Departure period (2010)	Standard	Superior
April 01-04, 2010 April 30 - June 03, 2010 March 18-31, 2011	\$2,582	\$2,880
April 05-29, 2010 August 23 - October 10, 2010 December 03-09, 2010	\$2,540	\$2,832
June 04-27, 2010 July 23 - August 15, 2010 December 10-26, 2010	\$2,665	\$2,982
June 28 - July 22, 2010 August 16-22, 2010	\$2,625	\$2,942
October 04-24, 2010 January 03 - March 17, 2011	\$2,458	\$2,775
October 25 - December 02, 2010 December 27, 10 - January 02, 11	\$2,498	\$2,815
Single room supplement	\$558	\$928
Phuket extension	\$530	\$654
Phuket: single room supplement	\$184	\$320

Prices based on a minimum of two people traveling together, double occupancy. Prices included fuel surcharge and subject to change without notice.

