

Lesser known Thailand (15 days)



DAY 1 TUE LONDON - BANGKOK

Fly from London to Bangkok. Transfer to Hotel

DAY 2 WED BANGKOK - AYUTHYA - LOPBURI - PITSANULOKE (-/L/D)

Pick up passengers from various major Bangkok hotels. Depart from Bangkok to Ayuthaya, the former capital of Thailand. The principal sights are Wat Pranangcherng, the three ancient pagodas at Wat Phra Srisanpetch and the gigantic bronze statues of Wat Mongkol Borphith. Continue to Lopburi for lunch at a local restaurant, then visit the museum at Narai Raja Nives Palace and the local market. Continue to Pitsanuloke and check-in at AMARIN LAGOON HOTEL. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 3 THU PITSANULOKE - SUKOTHAI - LAMPANG (B/L/D)

After breakfast, visit Wat Maha Dhat with its revered Buddha statue, Phra Buddha Jinaraj. Depart for Sukhothai. Visit Sukhothai Historical Park, the Ramkamhaeng Museum and Wat Sri Chum with the gigantic Buddha statue. After lunch at a local restaurant in Sri Satchanalai, continue to Lampang and check-in at LAMPANG RIVERLODGE.

Optional tour: Lampang is the only town in Thailand, where horse carriages are still used as a means of transportation. Take a leisurely ride on the colorful horse-drawn carriages along the river and visit Ban Sao Nak, an antique teak wood house built on 100 wooden columns and Wat Phra Kaeo Don Tao. Dinner at hotel and accommodation.

DAY 4 FRI LAMPANG - LAMPOON - CHIANG MAI (B/L/D)

After breakfast, depart for Ko Kah to see Wat Phra Dhat Lampang Luang housing the only Emerald Buddha besides the one at Wat Phra Keo in Bangkok. Short stop at the colorful Tung Kwian Market, where handicrafts, fruit, vegetables, live animals and the famous Lampang Ceramics are on sale, then proceed to Lamphoon for a visit to the famous Wat Haripoonchai, one of the most sacred monuments in the north. Continue to Chiang Mai and lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, visit the interesting Hill Tribe Museum (closed on Saturdays and Sundays) and handicraft manufactures, where the process of making lacquer-ware, spinning and weaving of Thai Silk and painting of paper umbrellas can be observed. Also visit a famous Thai wood carving factory with the possibility to buy Burmese antiques. Check-in at CHIANG MAI PLAZA HOTEL. Tonight you will savor a traditional Northern Thai style dinner at the “Just Khao Soy” Restaurant. After dinner, take a walk to the famous Chiang Mai Night Market or transfer back to the hotel.

DAY 5 SAT
CHIANG MAI

(B/L/D)

Visit the most interesting places in Chiang Mai such as Wat Phra Singh with its famous Buddha image, Wat Bupparam and Wat Doi Suthep, tucked away in the mountains at 1,056 meters above sea level. Lunch at a local restaurant. The afternoon is at leisure. In the evening, enjoy a typical Thai dinner with a presentation of traditional dances from Northern Thailand. Accommodation at CHIANG MAI PLAZA.

DAY 6 SUN
CHIANG MAI - HMONG HILLTRIBE LODGE (B/L/D)

After breakfast, depart Chiang Mai to Mae Sa Valley. Visit the elephant camp to watch the elephants at work. Their strength and clever teamwork will amaze you.

Optional: Take a one-hour elephant ride into the jungle surroundings.

Continue to an Orchid Farm, lunch at a local restaurant. Proceed to visit the hill-tribe Village at Ban Meo Mae Ki (for group sizes of 7 or more persons, transportation to the Hill tribe village is on pick up trucks / Landrovers). Check in at The Hmong Hilltribe Lodge. The afternoon is at leisure, take a walk through the hill tribe village or rent a bicycle to explore the neighborhood. BBQ dinner at Hmong Hilltribe Lodge followed by presentation of tribal dances and songs. Accommodation at HMONG HILLTRIBE LODGE.

DAY 7 MON
HMONG HILLTRIBE LODGE - THATORN - CHIANG RAI (B/L/D)

After breakfast, depart for Fang and Thatorn. En route, visit to Huay Luek, a Hmong hill-tribe village. After arrival in Thatorn, a small village just a few kilometers away from the Burmese border, lunch is served at Maekok River Village Resort. Depart by long tailed motor boats from Ban Phatai for a three hour journey down the Kok River, passing tiny hill tribe villages consisting of simple bamboo huts among lush vegetation. A stop will be made to visit a Lahu hill tribe village along the way. Arrival in Chiang Rai in the early evening. Check-in at the GOLDEN PINE RESORT. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 8 TUE
CHIANG RAI - BANGKOK (B/L/-)

After breakfast, visit the Golden Triangle, where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos convene. Boat trip on the Mekong River to Chiang Saen. After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to Chiang Rai Airport. Depart Chiang Rai by afternoon flight to Bangkok. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel in Bangkok.

DAY 9 WED
BANGKOK

Day at your own leisure in Bangkok

DAY 10 THU
BANGKOK – KANCHANABURI – PETCHBURI - CHA AM (-/L/D)

Pick up passengers from various major Bangkok hotels. Depart from Bangkok for Kanchanaburi to visit the cemetery of the allied prisoners of World War II and the famous Bridge Over the River Kwai. Continue to Petchburi, where lunch will be taken at a local restaurant. Visit the Khao Luang cave with its many worshipped Buddha statues which are lined up at the foot of the rock wall. Then climb uphill to see the King Mongkut's Summer Palace and visit Wat Maha Dhat and Wat Koh. Continue to Cha Am, a coastal town in

the Gulf of Thailand and check-in at NOVOTEL TIPVIMAN RESORT AND SPA (former Golden Sands Hotel)

In the evening transfer to Hua Hin, the sister resort of Cha Am. Take a short tour by foot pedaled trishaw through downtown Hua Hin, including visits to the local night market, railway station and fishing pier. Dinner at a local seafood restaurant by the sea. Return transfer to NOVOTEL TIPVIMAN RESORT AND SPA for overnight.

DAY 11 FRI

CHA AM – PRACHUAB KHIRI KHAN – RANONG (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart to Prachuap Khiri Khan. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit Khao Chong Krajok, located on an idyllic bay flanked by mountain cliffs. Climb to a small pagoda on a hill. Having climbed the 386 steps up from the beach, you will be rewarded by the beautiful panorama of this quiet fishing town. Continue the 280km journey to Ranong – this stretch of the journey offers few attractions apart from rural sceneries and landscapes. Arrive in Ranong and short stop at Punyaban Waterfall before checking in the ROYAL PRINCESS HOTEL. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 12 SAT

RANONG – KRABI (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit the busy fishing pier and take a short boat trip to Victoria Point, the southernmost town in Myanmar (Burma) and a bustling trading port. Return to Ranong for lunch at a local restaurant and continue the journey through beautiful mountain landscapes to Krabi, where you will arrive in the evening. Check-in at the MARITIME PARK RESORT & SPA. Dinner and accommodation.

Note: Depending on the political situation in Myanmar, a visit to Victoria Point is subject to cancellation at no refund.

DAY 13 SUN

KRABI (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning you will take a local long tail boat to Ko Poda Island and to Pranang Cave with opportunity for swimming and snorkeling. Return to Krabi for lunch at the Ruen Mai Restaurant. In the afternoon, visit to Wat Tham Sua, a temple carved into a cave. Dinner and accommodation at the MARITIME PARK RESORT & SPA.

DAY 14 MON

KRABI - PHUKET (B/L/-)

Breakfast at the hotel, Depart to Phang-Nga province. A short stop is made at Tharn Bokkorani National Park, where walking paths and wooden bridges lead along streams and over small waterfalls. Continue to Suwan Ku Ha Cave with its numerous Buddha statues. Proceed to the boat landing pier and take a boat trip through one of the most stunning parts of Thailand, Phang Nga Bay. Hundreds of odd-shaped limestone formations rise from the water, often covered with tropical vegetations, some of them are just tiny rocks, others form larger islands. During the boat trip you will also visit the Moslem village of Ko Panyi, build on stilts out in the open sea, where you will be served a delicious seafood lunch. Return to the pier on the mainland and continue by bus to Phuket with a short stop at a rubber plantation and rubber- processing factory en route. Transfer to hotel in Phuket.

DAY 15

PHUKET – BANGKOK - LONDON

AM Fly to Bangkok. Then fly to London.