

## DECEMBER 2020 Thailand

**Journey** 9 days: Bangkok to Bangkok

### What's Included

- Traditional Thai Home Dinner, Chiang Mai
- Meet with Monks, Chiang Mai
- Cooking Class, Chiang Mai
- Tuk Tuk drive including Elephant Park Visit
- Arrival & Departure transfer
- Entrance to the Thailand-Burma Railway Centre war museum and train ride
- Visit to Erawan National Park
- Guided tour at Ayutthaya Historical Park
- Dinner on a converted rice barge
- Sunset visit to Doi Suthep monastery
- Explore Bangkok and take a klong boat ride
- Internal flights
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

### Itinerary

**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

#### Day 1 Bangkok

Arrive at any time; your arrival transfer is included.

You are welcome to arrive at any time on day 1, but please note that hotel check-in time is 14:00pm.

#### Arrival Day and Welcome Meeting

1h18:00

The adventure begins tonight. Feel free to explore before your welcome meeting, but make sure you're back in time to meet the group. Check for the meeting time on the welcome note at the hotel. After introductions, your CEO will review the details of your tour. Please note that normal check-in times apply at our start hotels, but you can usually store your luggage for the day if you arrive early.

#### Private Vehicle

Suvarnabhumi Airport - Bangkok45m-1h30m

Upon arrival at the airport, head to the arrival hall and door number 10. Look for a driver holding a G Adventures sign with your name, who'll take you to your hotel so you can check in and start exploring.

#### Accommodation

**Hyatt Place Bangkok Sukhumvit (or similar)**

Hotel

## Day 2 Bangkok/Kanchanaburi

After breakfast, travel to the city of Kanchanaburi, situated at the convergence of the Khwae Noi and Khwae Yai rivers. Board a train for a winding journey into World War II history as you cross the bridge made famous by the 1957 film *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. At the Thailand-Burma Railway Centre, learn about the Burma Railway, constructed by imperial Japanese forces to connect Bangkok and Burma; then visit the nearby Kanchanaburi War Cemetery to see where the prisoners of war who worked on the railway were laid to rest.

### Private Vehicle

Bangkok - Kanchanaburi 2h-3h 130km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### Bridge on the River Kwai Visit

Kanchanaburi 1h45m-2h

Take in a piece of World War II history on this visit. You've seen or at least heard of the famous movie, "Bridge on the River Kwai" -- tour the real thing and take a train ride over the bridge. It's massive, majestic, and imposing, and offers fabulous views of the river below.

### Thai/Burma Railway Centre and Allied War Cemetery Visit

Kanchanaburi

Visit the Thai-Burmese Railway Museum to learn about the Death Railway's dark history, and the Allied War Cemetery where more than 6,000 prisoners are buried.

### Meals included: Breakfast

### Accommodation

#### Royal River Kwai Resort (or similar)

Resort

## Day 3 Kanchanaburi/Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

This morning, hike into the lush landscapes of Erawan National Park, located high in the mist-shrouded Tenasserim Hills. Take a dip in the turquoise pools of the Erawan Falls--so called because its top tier of cascades resemble the three-headed, mythological elephant known as the Erawan. This afternoon, transfer to the historic city of Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya--better known simply as Ayutthaya--a former capital of the medieval kingdom of Ayutthaya, also known as Siam. Sample traditional Thai dishes during dinner on a converted rice barge from the 1930s.

### Erawan Waterfalls Visit

Nam Tok Erawan 2h-3h

Visit one of the world's most beautiful waterfalls. Its seven tiers offer a unique experience at every climb, reaching up to 1,500m (4921 ft). Swim in the turquoise pools, snap photos from the top tier, and opt to hike in the jungle to spot monkeys.

### Private Vehicle

Kanchanaburi - Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya 2h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### Dinner Cruise

Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya 2h

Cruise down the river aboard a converted 1930s rice barge. Have a delicious Thai meal while taking in the incredible views of the city.

### Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

### Accommodation

#### Kameo Classic Ayutthaya Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

## Day 4 Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya/Chiang Mai

Set out to explore the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Ayutthaya Historical Park, centered on the old city which served as the Siamese capital from the 14th to 18th centuries, when it was one of the largest and most cosmopolitan regions in the world. Stroll down well-planned city streets to view magnificent palaces and

Buddhist monasteries that set the standard for Thai architecture for generations to come. Later, return to Bangkok and transfer to the airport for your flight to Chiang Mai. Visit a traditional village in the countryside and enjoy a khantok-style dinner.

Khantok in the Northern dialect means wooden tray, used for carrying dishes, round in shape and made of teak wood. The host will invite guests to sit on the floor around the khantok. After dinner, enjoy tea time with the opportunity to talk with local people to learn their way of living.

### **Ayutthaya Historical Park Guided Tour**

Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya 3h-3h30m

Explore the ruins of Ayutthaya, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Ayutthaya served as Thailand's capital from the 14th to 18th centuries, when it ranked as one of the most magnificent cities in the world. Late in the 17th century its population reached one million, and foreign visitors wrote awestruck accounts of its size and splendour.

### **Private Vehicle**

Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya - Bangkok 1h-1h30m

Hello again, Bangkok! Travel back to the city and to the airport by private van.

### **Plane**

Bangkok - Chiang Mai 1h30m

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

### **Your Journeys Highlight Moment: Traditional Thai Home Dinner**

Visit a village outside Chiang Mai and sit down to an authentic Khantoke dinner in the home of a local family. Dishes typically include sticky rice, hang-le curry, and crispy pork with chilli paste. Over tea, learn about life in rural Thailand and visit the family garden and learn about herbs and spices popular in local cooking.

**Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner**

### **Accommodation**

#### **Duangtawan Hotel Chiang Mai (or similar)**

Hotel

### **Day 5 Chiang Mai**

Delve into the bustle of Chiang Mai's morning markets with a local chef, and learn about colorful fruits and fragrant herbs as you select ingredients for a Thai cooking class. Enjoy your creation for lunch, then set out to visit a historic temple. Sit down with one of the resident monks to discuss daily life and the tenets of Buddhism. Later, clear your mind to the chanting of monks at Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, one of the most spectacular gilded temples in Thailand.

Monk Chats are a great cultural exchange, but is also important in helping the young Monks improve their English.

### **Your Foodie Moment: Cooking Class**

Morning

Pick out the best ingredients at a local market and learn how to make delicious Thai dishes.

### **Your Journeys Highlight Moment: Meet with Monks**

Visit a Buddhist temple in Chiang Mai's Suthep district. Sit down with young monks to discuss daily life and Buddhism, and leave feeling spiritually refreshed. Monk Chats are informal discussions at a round table with a prepschool age Monk, usually accompanied by their teacher.

### **Doi Suthep Temple Visit**

Doi Suthep - Chiang Mai 3h

Visit Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, a golden Buddhist temple outside of Chiang Mai on the Mt Doi Suthep. Climb 300 steps to reach the temple and be rewarded with an unforgettable view. Admire the many Buddhist relics at this sacred temple and visit the white elephant shrine. Legend has it that the location of the temple was chosen after a white elephant carried a relic to the mountain and trumpeted three times before dying on the spot. Also, with a little luck, you may witness the chanting of the monks.

### **Private Vehicle**

Chiang Mai 1h30m-2h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

## **Optional Activities - Day 5**

### **Chiang Mai Cycling Tour**

Chiang Mai  
30USD per person

Meander through Chiang Mai by bike and get an alternative view of this bustling city.

**Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch**

### **Accommodation**

#### **Duangtawan Hotel Chiang Mai (or similar)**

Hotel

## **Day 6 Chiang Mai**

Spend a full day exploring Chiang Mai's temples and forested hills on your own, or choose between a variety of optional activities. Traverse the rural lanes of Chiang Mai in a tuk-tuk, or opt to take a cycling tour through verdant rice paddies and the elegant historic district. In the evening, choose to visit Chiang Mai's vibrant night market.

### **Free Time**

Chiang Mai Morning

Chiang Mai is a mecca for shopping and handicraft production, so take advantage of this opportunity to do some shopping if you wish.

## **Optional Activities - Day 6**

### **Night Market**

Chiang Mai

Pick up a souvenir at this shopper's paradise. Wander through the market to find music, food, and local artists selling handmade crafts.

### **Chiang Mai Cycling Tour**

Chiang Mai  
30USD per person

Meander through Chiang Mai by bike and get an alternative view of this bustling city.

### **Full Day Tuk-Tuk Adventure**

Chiang Mai

Learn how to drive a classic Thai mode of transport - the tuk-tuk - then set off for a full-day Northern Thailand adventure like no other. With your very own guide, explore the rural lanes of Chiang Mai, drive past rice fields and temples as you weave through the countryside, and experience Thai hospitality at its finest over lunch and chatting with the locals. Drinking water throughout the day, as well as pick-up and drop-off at your hotel in Chiang Mai, is included. Please note that if you wish to drive the tuk-tuk, you must have a valid license (not required for backseat passengers).

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Accommodation**

#### **Duangtawan Hotel Chiang Mai (or similar)**

Hotel

## **Day 7 Chiang Mai/Bangkok**

This morning, fly to Bangkok and board a traditional klong boat for a ride along the winding canals that have earned the city the nickname the "Venice of the East." Glide past colorful temples, modern skyscrapers, and houses perched above the water. Visit Wat Pho, Bangkok's largest and oldest temple complex, and often considered Thailand's first public university--its many inscriptions were intended to instruct visitors. Marvel at the magnificent statue of the Reclining Buddha, glittering with gold leaf and mother-of-pearl.

### **Plane**

Chiang Mai - Bangkok 1h30m

Take a quick flight back to Bangkok.

### **Klong Riverboat Tour**

Bangkok

Travel by longtail boat on the busy Chao Phraya River. Go through the smaller klongs (canals) to see skyscrapers, temples, and shops in the distance, and the densely populated waterfront settlements up close.

### **Wat Po Visit**

Bangkok

This temple is known for its reclining Buddha, its feet covered with mother-of-pearl engravings of Buddhist symbols. Explore the large grounds and other compounds to see other Buddha figures, murals and the chedis that contain the ashes of Buddha. This is also the birthplace of traditional Thai massage.

### **Private Vehicle**

Bangkok

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Accommodation**

**Hyatt Place Bangkok Sukhumvit (or similar)**

Hotel

### **Day 8 Bangkok**

Depart at any time.

Please note that check out time is 12:00pm.

### **Departure Day**

Not ready to leave? Want to see more. We can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure to Phuket, Chiang Rai, Vietnam and more.

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### **What's Included**

Your Journeys Highlight Moment: Traditional Thai Home Dinner, Chiang Mai

Your Journeys Highlight Moment: Meet with Monks, Chiang Mai

Your Foodie Moment: Cooking Class, Chiang Mai. Arrival transfer. Entrance to the Thailand-Burma Railway Centre war museum and train ride. Visit to Erawan National Park. Guided tour at Ayutthaya Historical Park. Dinner on a converted rice barge. Sunset visit to Doi Suthep monastery. Explore Bangkok and take a klong boat ride. Internal flights. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

### **Highlights**

Swim in turquoise pools below a seven-tiered waterfall, Meet a resident monk and receive a Buddhist blessing at one of Thailand's most revered temples, Explore Wat Pho to view a colossal gilded statue of the Reclining Buddha, Visit a village home outside and sit down to a traditional khantok dinner