



11 Days

Thailand

Tuk Tuks, Trekking and Tusks

ENVIRONMENT
CLEAN UP

Our whirlwind tour of Thailand gives you a chance to taste the magic of this fantastic country. We'll discover the glittering temples of Bangkok, trek in the jungles of the north and spend the night with a local hill tribe community. To add an extra dimension to this journey we'll meet friendly elephants at a conservation centre and finally relax on the golden sands of a beautiful Thai beach. This educational journey will enable us to experience the best of Thailand in a short, yet in-depth adventure.



Recommended tour itinerary

Day
1-2

Depart London, arrive Bangkok, Thai dinner

We will be met at the airport by our Trip Leader and transferred to the hotel where we have a chance to freshen up before heading out for dinner, experiencing Thailand's bustling capital. Bangkok is famous for its tuk tuks, klong boats and street vendors serving up delicious Thai food, which we will sample at a local restaurant.

Day
3

Bangkok city tour, Tuk Tuk adventure, and overnight train

This morning we will experience Bangkok in the best way possible: a tuk tuk tour! We will experience travel like the locals as we whizz through the busy streets of Bangkok, stopping at the marvellous Phra Sumeru Fortress and jaunting past Thammasart University, where we begin to learn about the history of the area. Next stop on the tuk tuk ride is the Amulet Market, where locals sell all kinds of traditional Thai amulets, charms, and medicines. Our Trip Leader will be able to explain the significance of all these mysterious items and what part they play in Thai culture.

We will then head towards Wat Po, the temple which is the centre of the Buddhist religion in Thailand and the birthplace of Thai massage and medicines. Your Trip Leader will take us on a tour of the area, and tell us the local stories about one of the most fascinating parts of Bangkok. This temple is certainly a must see for anyone travelling to Bangkok.

Our next stop is the Grand Palace which served as the official residence of the King of Siam, the Royal Court and administrative seat of government until the early 1900's. Despite no longer being the official residence of the King, the Grand Palace is still very much the regal centre of the nation and used for various ceremonies during the year. Included in the trip will be a visit to Wat Phra Kaew which houses the revered Emerald Buddha.

Tonight we are in for another adventure as we board an overnight train for Chiang Mai (around 13 hours). Our beds for the night will be in multi-share sleeping compartments which are air-conditioned with bunk beds; sheets and a pillow provided. Supper will be provided on the train and for those night owls it is a superb opportunity to see the Thai landscape whizzing by.

Day
4

Chiang Mai City Tour and cookery lesson

Our train is scheduled to arrive in Chiang Mai in the early morning.

Before going to the hotel for check in we will enjoy a traditional style Chiang Mai breakfast. Afterward we explore Chiang Mai on a city walking tour. Chiang Mai has many famous temples and an interesting old city area. Renowned for dazzling beauty and extremely welcoming locals, the 'Rose of the North' will no doubt leave us spellbound. Chances are, you won't want to leave. Our accommodation for tonight is perfectly located right by the famous vibrant night markets. In the late afternoon we discover some of the secrets of Thai cuisine by joining a cookery course. An opportunity to learn about the main ingredients used in Thai cuisine, how they are used, stored and the alternatives to look for if the corner shop doesn't stock them! Questions are welcome and we will be provided with a comprehensive book of recipes and ingredient details. Our dinner will be a feast of our creations rounded off by a tasting session of Thai fruit.





Day
5

Hill tribe trek and overnight village stay

This morning we depart Chiang Mai by songthaew (an open pick-up truck) and head about three hours north. After lunch we begin our day and a half of trekking through tropical jungle seeking out hill-tribes. During our trekking we will pass through a variety of villages, often with their own language, clothing style and belief system. It is an unforgettable experience to meet and interact with the wonderful people of the hill-tribes and a unique opportunity to learn about and appreciate their fascinating cultures and way of life.

This evening we will stay in a local village in a bamboo hut, conditions will be basic but the experience will be well worth it. We have the opportunity to help prepare dinner and interact with our village hosts.

Day
6

Trek and return to Chiang Mai

This morning we have time to explore the village a little more before taking part in a few hours of trekking through the spectacular Thai hills. After lunch we are met by the songthaew and driven back to Chiang Mai once more.

Day
7

Elephant nature park

Today will no doubt be a highlight of the trip as we visit the Elephant Nature Park, after a scenic drive from Chiang Mai through the Mae Taeng Valley. Here we spend the day with these magnificent creatures, collecting food to give and watching them bathe and interact naturally. Make sure to leave space on your memory card for all of the photos!

Day
8

Transfer to Hua Hin and beach stay

This morning we fly to Bangkok before transferring to the beautiful Hua Hin seaside district. Here we have free time to explore the white sandy beaches and swim in the tropical waters. Hua Hin was once a sleepy fishing village before Thai royalty made it their beachside getaway in the '20s. Hin Beach is the main strip – the perfect place to grab a coconut, settle in and be sure to sample the delicious thom kha (spicy seafood soup).

Day
9

Environment Clean Up

This morning we will get stuck in with an 'Environment Clean Up' and help to clear waste from the coastline. This afternoon we can relax, lounge on the beach or swim in turquoise waters. Other activities could include exploring the opulent Victorian-era garden estates just north of the day market at Chatchai. We certainly suggest a visit to the local night market to soak up the Thai culture.



Day
10-11

Return to UK

This morning we will pack our bags (and try to leave as much sand behind!) before travelling back to Bangkok Airport where you will bid a final farewell to our Trip Leader and the magic of Thailand, arriving back on day 11.

Further information

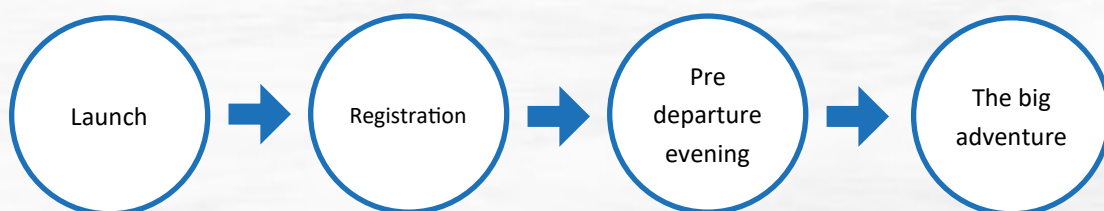
Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

Your educational journey timeline



Physical journey rating:



Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

Culture shock rating:



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.

1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your educational travel itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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