



Thailand: The Golden Kingdom

12 days | 15 days with Cambodia extension

On this small group adventure tour, you'll travel from bustling Bangkok to ancient ruined capitals, local villages, and mountaintop temples to investigate all sides of this vibrant country of contrasts. The spice and rice will nourish your body; the scenery and history will nourish your soul.



Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 5 lunches
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 cooking class
- 4 tastings
- 16 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 on-tour flight

Included highlights

- Grand Palace
- Temple of the Reclining Buddha
- Damnoen Saduak Floating Market
- Ayutthaya ruins
- Rice paddy farm visit
- Sukhothai Historical Park
- Oolong tea plantation
- Thai cooking class
- ChangChill elephant sanctuary

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1 hour daily across uneven terrain with some hills.

Group size

10-22

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Bangkok today.

Bangkok → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Bangkok

Welcome to Thailand! Settle in to your hotel tonight.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Bangkok

Included meals: breakfast, welcome lunch, tasting

This morning, join your Tour Director on a sightseeing tour of Bangkok.

- Explore the sprawling Grand Palace complex, built in 1782 for the king of Siam
- Pass by the Temple of the Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Kaew)
- Step inside the Temple of the Reclining Buddha (Wat Pho) to see the famous 150-foot long statue of Buddha
- Visit the nearby flower market before talking a walking tour of the Chinatown neighborhood
- Enjoy an included welcome lunch with your fellow travelers
- Tour the city's canals, called *klongs*, on a speedboat and converted rice barge as you sample local fruits

Day 4: Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, Maeklong Railway Market & organic farm

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

Explore the region on a series of stops at local cultural sites.

- Ride through canals and villages on a long-tail boat to arrive at the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market
- See the varied stalls, where locals sell food and goods, before sampling a local specialty
- Explore the Maeklong Railway Market, which is built along an active train line
- Walk through an organic farm to learn about the eco-friendly practices
- Sample fruit and a refreshing coconut drink, before taking part in a hands-on planting workshop

Phitsanulok → 1 night

Day 5: Phitsanulok via Ayutthaya & rice paddy

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Journey to Ayutthaya, Thailand's capital from 1350 to 1767.

- Take a tour of the UNESCO-listed Ayutthaya Historical Park
- Learn about Ayutthaya's role as the second capital of the Siam Kingdom
- Tour the ruins, decorated with beautiful images of the Buddha draped in saffron robes, just like living monks

Continue on to the central Thai city of Phitsanulok making stops along the way.

- Enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant
- Meet a local farmer at a rice paddy to learn how rice is grown
- Walk through Wat Phra Si Rattana Mahathat temple to see the Phra Buddha Chinnarat image

Sit down for an included dinner. Then, enjoy a free evening in Phitsanulok or add an excursion. + Rickshaw Ride & Market

Chiang Rai → 2 nights

Day 6: Sukhothai Historical Park & transfer to Chiang Rai via pineapple farm

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting

This morning, join your Tour Director on a bike tour of Sukhothai Historical Park.

- Hop aboard a bike and explore the UNESCO World Heritage site on two wheels
- See classical Buddha statues and temple ruins, including the monument to King Rama

Please note: You'll bike along flat, paved paths without cars. Travelers can opt to take a self-guided tour of the park by tram instead of biking. Travel to the Lampang region where you'll enjoy an included family-style lunch. Then, tour a pineapple farm and sample the fresh fruit as you learn how it's produced before continuing on to Chiang Rai.

Day 7: Mekong & oolong tea plantation

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting

Spend today exploring the waterways, villages, and markets outside of Chiang Rai.

- Board a long-tail boat and venture along the Mekong
- Visit the Golden Triangle, where the three countries of Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos meet on the Mekong River
- Enjoy an included lunch overlooking the Mekong River
- Head to an oolong tea plantation in Mae Salong for a tour
- Sample three different kinds of local tea at the Choui Fong Tea shop while admiring views of the lush, terraced tea plantation

Chiang Mai → 3 nights

Day 8: Chiang Mai via Wat Rong Khun & Doi Suthep

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Enjoy the stunning scenery as you stop at some of the region's most impressive temples and historic sites on your way to Chiang Mai.

- Stop at Wat Rong Khun, the otherworldly "White Temple"
- Discover Doi Suthep, the regal mountain overlooking the city from the northwest and home to some of the most deeply loved symbols in the Kingdom
- Take a cable car to Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep, a major temple and pilgrimage destination during the important Buddhist holidays of Makha Buja and Visak
- Opt to take a one-hour hike down a well-marked trail with many stairs or ride the cable car back to the base of the mountain

Continue on to Chiang Mai and take part in a Thai cooking class this evening.

- Begin the night by visiting a local market to learn about the fresh ingredients you'll use during your cooking class
- Prepare four Thai dishes with culinary chefs in a secluded village known for its stunning rice fields
- Enjoy the meal you cooked for dinner

Day 9: Chiang Mai Night Bazaar

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

Spend a free day in Chiang Mai or add an excursion.

Tonight, sample local cuisine and enjoy free time to shop as you explore the Chiang Mai Night Bazaar with your Tour Director.

+ Mae Kampong Hill Tribe: Village Visit & Hike

Day 10: ChangChill elephant sanctuary visit

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Drive through the countryside and visit ChangChill, an organization at the forefront of elephant welfare and responsible tourism in Chiang Mai.

- Hear how the organization works with World Animal Protection to create a safe living environment for the elephants and an educational experience for visitors
- Learn about Asian elephants as you watch them roam freely during a hands-off elephant exploration walk
- Help prepare medicine and food for the elephants
- Chat with the mahouts, or elephant caretakers, and enjoy an included vegetarian meal overlooking the elephants' natural bathing spot

Enjoy a free evening in Chiang Mai or add an excursion.

+ Lanna Family Home-Hosted Dinner

Bangkok → 1 night

Day 11: Wat Suan Dok & flight to Bangkok

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

This morning, visit Wat Suan Dok, a temple constructed for a revered priest visiting from Sukhothai. While here, you'll meet and talk with one of the resident monks to learn about Buddhism.

Then, fly to Bangkok where you'll celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your early morning flight home or continue your tour in Cambodia.

+ Cambodia extension

You haven't really seen lost cities until you've

been to Cambodia, where Angkor Wat astounds with out-of-this-world architecture and history.

Fly to Siem Reap and get an insider's peek at this renowned religious monument and other fascinating ruins alongside your Tour Director.

Siem Reap → 2 nights

Day 12: Sunset at Angkor Wat

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Fly to Siem Reap, Cambodia, and enjoy an included lunch. At sunset, tour the majestic temples of Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument and an outstanding example of Khmer architecture. Honoring Hinduism and Buddhism, its five layers of rectangular walls and moats are said to represent mountains and the ocean.

Later, sit down for an included dinner.

Day 13: Angkor Thom & Ta Prohm

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Spend the day exploring evocative temple ruins with your Tour Director.

- Experience Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Kmer Empire and home of the Elephant Terrace, the Terrace of the Leper King, and the Bayon Temple
- Sit down for an included lunch
- Explore Ta Prohm, a 12th-century temple that has been largely reclaimed by the jungle

Bangkok → 1 night

Day 14: Cambodian Landmine Museum & flight to Bangkok

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Enter the Cambodian Landmine Museum, an organization dedicated to the removal of landmines and unexploded ordnance, or UXO, from Cambodia.

- Watch a short film about Aki Ra, a former Khmer Rouge child soldier who founded the museum
- Take a guided audio tour of the museum to learn about the organization's de-mining projects and community development initiatives
- Learn how the revenue from your visit supports relief projects for those harmed by landmines and UXO

Later, fly back to Bangkok for a farewell dinner with your group.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.ca/TAI | 1-800-754-5066

Day 5: Rickshaw Ride & Market

\$45CAD/\$55CAD* (1 hour, departs in the evening)

Take a cycle rickshaw to the Phitsanulok Night Market, where you'll find fresh food cooked and served to order. Watch as local cooks perform their signature "flying vegetables show," in which vegetables are fried in a wok, then tossed high into the air. Be sure to try the finished product, Pak Boong Loy Fah (or "Flying Morning Glory" in English). In addition to the food, you'll discover an astounding variety of local handicrafts, souvenirs and clothing for sale.

Day 9: Mae Kampong Hill Tribe: Village Visit & Hike

\$89CAD/\$99CAD* (6 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

The Mae Kampong Hill Tribe lives in Northern Thailand, where members of the community continue to practice and share their storied traditions. Today, you'll explore their village alongside a local guide. Begin the day with a hike through the mountains surrounding the village. You'll stop to view a waterfall as you hear about the beauty of the area from your guide. Continue into the village to learn about the traditional ways of life during a tea tasting. Farmers in the community have produced tea for over 200 years, and the area's fertile farmlands were one of the main reasons the villagers chose to live here. Then, enter the home of a village resident and get to the heart of traditional Thai cuisine during a home-hosted lunch. After enjoying some free time, travel back to Chiang Mai. Please note: We recommend travelers wear comfortable clothing and sturdy walking shoes. The hike is 60–90 minutes long uphill through the mountains. Travelers should be prepared for muddy and/or wet conditions during the rainy season.

Day 10: Lanna Family Home-Hosted Dinner

\$125CAD/\$135CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Make your way outside of Chiang Mai to join a local Lanna family in their open-air garden. Get a tour of the family's orchards and gardens before sitting down to enjoy a spread of traditional Thai dishes while learning about Lanna culture and traditions from your hosts.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms