GO AHEAD TOURS



Thailand Adventure: Bangkok, Chiang Mai & the Islands

14 days | 17 days with Cambodia extension

If you're wondering what it takes for a country to earn the nickname the Land of Smiles, you'll find the answer on this small group Adventure Tour of Thailand. Go off the beaten path to discover that the locals are as nice as it gets, each regional dish hits a spicy-salty-sweet high note, and that everything from ancient sites to local fishing villages recall a history that goes back thousands of years.



Your tour package includes

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

Included highlights

Grand Palace
Damnoen Saduak Floating Market
Organic Thai farm visit
Ayutthaya Historical Park
Oolong tea plantation
Wat Phra That Doi Suthep
Thai cooking class
Chiang Mai Night Market
ChangChill elephant sanctuary
Buddhist monk chat
Ao Phang Nga Bay National Park

Tour pace

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

Group size

12–22

© 2024 EF Education First

Thailand Adventure: Bangkok, Chiang Mai & the Islands

14 days | 17 days with Cambodia extension

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 taking 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, built on an active train line, where vendors regularly pick up their stalls to allow trains to pass
- Continue on to a local organic farm to learn about the eco-friendly practices
- Sample freshly picked fruit and a refreshing coconut drink
- Take part in a hands-on planting workshop with the local farmers

---

Chiang Rai → 2 nights

Day 5: Ayutthaya Historical Park & flight to Chiang Rai
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Journey to Ayutthaya, Thailand's capital from 1350 to 1767, for a guided tour of the UNESCO-listed Ayutthaya Historical Park.

- Learn about Ayutthaya's role as the second capital of the Siam Kingdom
- Tour the ruins of palaces and monasteries, which are decorated with beautiful statues of the Buddha draped in saffron robes
- See the giant reclining Buddha at Wat Lokayasutharam
- Learn why Ayutthaya is referred to as The Venice of the East with its various canals and rivers

Then, transfer to the Bangkok airport and fly to the mountainous provincial town of Chiang Rai, where buddhist shrines and the ruins of ancient civilizations, dot the hills. Once you arrive, sit down for an included dinner with your group.

Day 6: Mekong River cruise & oolong tea plantation tour
Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting
Spend today exploring the waterways, villages, and markets outside of Chiang Rai.

- Board a long-tail boat and venture past hill tribe villages along the Mekong River
- 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 guided tour with an expert
- Sample three different kinds of local tea at the Choui Fong Tea shop while admiring views of the terraced tea plantation

---

Chiang Mai → 3 nights

Day 7: Chiang Mai via Wat Rong Khun, Doi Suthep & cooking class
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 otherwordly "White Temple"
- Visit Doi Suthep, the regal mountain overlooking the city and home to some of the most deeply loved symbols in the kingdom
- Take a cable car to Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, a major temple and pilgrimage destination during the important Buddhist holidays of Makha Bucha 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.

- Prepare four Thai dishes with culinary chefs in a secluded village known for its stunning rice fields
- Enjoy the meal you cooked for dinner alongside your fellow group members

Day 8: Chiang Mai Night Market
Included meals: breakfast, tasting
Spend a free day in Chiang Mai or add an excursion.
Tonight, join your Tour Director to explore the Chiang Mai Night Market, just outside the ancient walls of the old city. You're in for the best night market experience in Thailand.

- Sample various regional cuisine specialties made by local vendors
- Enjoy free time to shop and taste more street food at your leisure

+ Mae Kampong Hill Tribe: Village Visit & Hike

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of ChangChill elephant sanctuary
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

Phuket Island → 3 nights

Day 10: Buddhist monk visit & flight to Phuket
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
This morning, visit the Wat Suan Dok Buddhist temple where you'll meet a resident monk to discuss Buddhism, ask questions, and learn how the monks of the temple live.
This afternoon, fly to Phuket, where crystal blue water and powder white sand await you. Sit down for an included dinner with your group.

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Ao Phang Nga Bay & Talu Island canoeing
Included meals: breakfast, lunch
Depart Phuket Island and spend today boating around the surrounding tropical island paradise on a guided sightseeing tour.
- Board a speedboat and cruise around Ao Phang Nga Bay National Park, known for its towering limestone rock formations
- Visit a Muslim fishing village on Koh Panyee Island and experience the local lifestyle
- Sit down for an included lunch in a floating restaurant
- Head to Talu Island and explore sea caves by canoe with experienced local paddlers as your guides
- Visit the iconic Khao Phing Kan, or "James Bond Island"

Day 12: Free day on Phuket Island
Included meals: breakfast
Enjoy a free day on Phuket Island or add an excursion.
+ Phi Phi Islands Cruise, Snorkeling & Lunch

Bangkok → 1 night

Day 13: Flight to Bangkok
Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner
Fly to Bangkok this afternoon and spend free time exploring the city at your leisure.
Tonight, celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers during a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Flight Home

Day 14: 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 14: Flight to Siem Reap & sunset at Angkor Wat
Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Fly to Siem Reap, Cambodia, and uncover the best of this area alongside your Tour Director.
- Enjoy an included lunch of local Cambodian specialties
- Set off at sunset to tour the temples of Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument and an outstanding example of Khmer architecture
- Learn how this monument honors both Hinduism and Buddhism

Later, sit down for an included dinner.

Day 15: Angkor Thom & Ta Prohm
Included meals: breakfast, lunch
Spend the day exploring temple ruins with your Tour Director.
- Walk through Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Khmer Empire and home of the Elephant Terrace, the Terrace of the Leper King, and the Bayon Temple
- Sit down for an included lunch
- Explore the 12th-century Ta Prohm temple, now largely reclaimed by the jungle

---

Bangkok → 1 night

Day 16: 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.

Flight home

Day 17: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your early morning flight home.

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.com/TAT | 1-800-597-0350**

Day 8: Mae Kampong Hill Tribe: Village Visit & Hike
$65/$75* (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 9: Lanna Family Home-Hosted Dinner
$89/$99* (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.

Day 12: Phi Phi Islands Cruise, Snorkeling & Lunch
$105/$115* (8 hours, departs in the morning, includes lunch)
The tropical Phi Phi Islands (pronounced "pee pee") are literally paradise on Earth, and you'll spend the day beach-hopping alongside an expert guide on this excursion. Travel in style aboard a speedboat as you cruise to Phi Phi Don, admiring spectacular views of Phuket Harbor from your first-class seat. Here, stop to snorkel in the crystal-clear blue water (some of the best water in all of Thailand!) and admire one of the world's most abundant coral reef systems. Then, gaze up at the staggering limestone cliffs as you head to Monkey Island, where you'll stop for photos and a sighting of Long-Tailed Macaques. Finally, soak in the laid-back atmosphere of the islands and taste local specialties at an included lunch before boarding your boat back to Phuket.

*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.com/terms