



## Highlights of Southern Thailand: Bangkok, Phuket & Krabi

12 days | 15 days with Cambodia & Bangkok extension

Come to Thailand with your heart open and leave with your heart full. Start in Bangkok's dizzying, busy streets, then explore Thailand's lush tropical Andaman Coast from Phuket to Krabi. In Khao Sok National Park, take to the water around the world's oldest evergreen rainforest, brimming with wildlife. You'll traverse canals by longboat, speedboat through limestone cliffs, and participate in vital conservation efforts. Yes, there will be elephants—an ethical sanctuary visit awaits. Extend your trip to Cambodia and stand in awe of the world's largest religious monument glowing at sunrise with a trek to Angkor Wat.



### Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 5 lunches
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 3 food tastings
- 9 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 on-tour flights

### Included highlights

- Bangkok's Grand Palace
- Klong canal cruise
- Ao Phang Nga Bay National Park
- James Bond Island
- Phuket night market
- Khao Sok National Park
- Krabi conservation project visit
- Following Giants Elephant Sanctuary

### Tour pace

On this guided tour, you will walk for at least 2 hours daily across uneven terrain with some hills and uneven terrain.

### Group size

12-22

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Bangkok today.

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## Bangkok → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Bangkok

Welcome to Thailand! As you settle into your hotel tonight, you might be greeted with a wai—a gesture where hands are placed in a prayer position followed by a gentle bowing of the head. You can choose to return the gesture if you want.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Bangkok

*Included meals: breakfast, welcome lunch, tasting*

Join your Tour Director for a sightseeing tour of Bangkok, the bustling capital city set on the banks of the Chao Phraya River.

- Explore the sprawling Grand Palace complex—home to the kings of Siam from 1782 to 1925—featuring traditional Thai architecture as well as European Renaissance inspiration.
- Pass by the Wat Phra Kaew temple complex, or Temple of the Emerald Buddha, which is the spiritual core of Thai Buddhism and a pilgrimage site for devout Buddhists.
- Step inside the Temple of the Reclining Buddha, or Wat Pho, to admire the grandeur of the gilded 150-foot-long statue depicting the passing of the Buddha into nirvana (it's the biggest Reclining Buddha statue in the city).
- Visit the nearby flower market's rainbow-hued rows of blooms before taking a walking tour of the Chinatown neighborhood—one of the largest Chinatowns in the world—bursting with mouthwatering food stalls, ornate temples, and the rich history of Chinese immigrants.
- Enjoy an included welcome lunch at a local restaurant with your fellow travelers.

- Tour the city's canals, called klongs, on a motorized longboat as you sample local fruits from floating markets. Canals once criss-crossed Bangkok, earning it the nickname Venice of the East.

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## Phuket Island → 2 nights

### Day 4: Flight to Phuket & walking tour

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner*

Fly to Phuket this morning, Thailand's largest island, and embark on a walking tour to get to know this slice of heaven in the Andaman Sea.

- Learn about Phuket's importance to trade routes between Europe and China.
- Admire the restored, candy-colored shophouses along Dibuk Road in the Old Town. The café-lined street is a feast for the eyes.
- View the Chinpracha House as it peeks through palm trees, an ornate Sino-Portuguese-style colonial mansion.
- Sample regional snacks in a restored coffee house. Keep your eyes out for o-aew, a shaved ice and jelly dessert that originated in Phuket.

Tonight, enjoy an included dinner with beer or wine alongside your fellow travelers.

*Please note: On some departures the included dinner will take place on day 5 and the night market visit on day 5 will move to day 4.*

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Ao Phang Nga Bay, Talu Island canoeing & Phuket night market visit

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting*

Depart Phuket Island and spend today boating the deep turquoise waters surrounding jungle-crowned tropical islands on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Board a speedboat and cruise around Ao Phang Nga Bay National Park, known for its towering limestone rock formations, known as karsts, thick mangrove forests, and almost 200 bird species.
- Enjoy an included lunch aboard your boat while surrounded by the bay's clear water bejeweled with karsts.

- Head to Talu Island and canoe through dramatically arched sea caves with experienced local paddlers as your guides.
- Visit the iconic steep shores of Khao Phing Kan, or James Bond Island, made into a popular tourist destination when it was chosen as one of the locations for *The Man with the Golden Gun* starring Roger Moore.

Tonight, immerse yourself in authentic local flavor when you head to the night market on Phuket, where you'll find stalls of fresh fruit, drinks, fiery snacks, slurp-worthy noodles, and for the adventurous—fried insects. Spend time exploring the seemingly endless stalls, stopping for sips and bites along the way.

*Please note: On some departures the night market visit may take place on day 4 and the included dinner from day 4 will move to day 5.*

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## Khao Sok Region → 2 nights

### Day 6: Transfer to the Khao Sok Region

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Enjoy a free morning on Phuket—warming your feet in the fine, white sand of Karon Beach or lounging by the pool—before traveling north to the Khao Sok region, renowned for its national park—an unspoiled area where towering limestone cliffs, unspoiled jungles, and teal water meet.

After freshening up at your hotel, gather together for an included dinner served with beer or wine this evening.

### Day 7: Khao Sok National Park & Cheow Lan Lake cruise

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Take to the water this morning for a full day in Khao Sok National Park, home to the oldest evergreen rainforest in the world, exploring the stunning Cheow Lan Lake aboard a traditional long-tail boat.

- Admire dramatic, jungle-topped limestone cliffs and karsts as you cruise across the lake's turquoise waters.
- Khao Sok is teeming with diverse fauna. Keep an eye out for wildlife, including long-tailed macaques and gibbons. The national park is also home to the Malayan sun bear, cobras, and hornbills.

- Enjoy an included lunch at a floating restaurant followed by free time to swim, canoe, or just relax and take in the majestic scenery.
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## Krabi Region → 3 nights

### Day 8: Krabi Conservation Project

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Travel south to Krabi, an iconic port town where you'll find postcard views, pristine beaches, and a laid-back atmosphere. Spend the morning taking part in a service project with a local conservation effort where a guide will teach you about mangrove reforestation and sustainable development projects. You'll have the chance to make a direct impact—planting a tree or joining another conservation activity.

Afterwards, enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant before transferring to your hotel where you can spend a free evening in the Krabi region, or add an optional excursion to try your hand at whipping up Thai dishes alongside professional chefs at a local culinary school.  
+ Krabi Thai Cooking Class

### Day 9: Following Giants Elephant Sanctuary

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Drive south to the island of Koh Lanta and visit Following Giants Elephant Sanctuary, an organization which has taken steps to move away from elephant trekking to become a genuine, observation-only sanctuary, where elephants can just be elephants. Prepare yourself for the heart-filling experience of a lifetime.

- Hear how the organization has worked to create a safe living environment for the elephants and an educational experience for visitors.
- Learn about Asian elephants as you watch these gentle giants roam freely during a hands-off elephant exploration walk.
- Take part in a hands-on replanting activity where you'll create fertilizer seed balls and slingshot them into the surrounding fields. When grown, they'll provide vegetation for the elephants to eat.
- Sit down to enjoy an included lunch at the sanctuary.

### Day 10: Free day in the Krabi Region

*Included meals: breakfast*

Join an optional excursion aboard a Junk, an ancient, fixed-sail Chinese ship design, and set sail on the Andaman Sea for more island exploration, swimming, snorkeling, or taking in

the views. Choosing to spend your free day in Krabi? Ask your Tour Director for activity recommendations—how about unwinding in the Krabi Hot Springs, a natural thermal spa, or Phra Nang Cave Beach, known for its sugar white sand and—as its name suggests—interesting caves to explore.

+ Krabi Junk Cruise & Lunch

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## Bangkok → 1 night

### Day 11: Flight to Bangkok

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Fly to Bangkok this afternoon and freshen up at your hotel.

Tonight, celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers during a farewell dinner served with beer or wine at a local restaurant.

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## 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 on the extension to Cambodia, where the massive lotus bud-shaped towers of Angkor Wat and flourishing night markets of Siem Reap await you.

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## + Cambodia & Bangkok extension

In Cambodia, you won't just see majestic temples, you'll experience them, body and soul. Fly to Siem Reap—Cambodia's second-largest city—and get an insider's peek at Angkor Wat's out-of-this-world architecture and history. Far more than just the gateway to the famed temple complex, Siem Reap boasts exciting night life and delectable Khmer cuisine. Get a taste of both with a visit to a lively night market where you can feast on rice cake fritters and Khmer noodles before browsing the market stalls for handmade crafts.

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## Siem Reap → 2 nights

### Day 12: Flight to Siem Reap, sightseeing tour of Wat Thmei & night market visit

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting, dinner*

Fly to Siem Reap, Cambodia, and witness remnants of the region's difficult history—and hopeful future—alongside your Tour Director.

- Visit a local cooking school and enjoy an included lunch made by students honing their culinary skills.
- Head to the Wat Thmei Killing Field Memorial to learn about the 1.7 million souls who perished during the Cambodian Genocide.
- Hear how the intellectual and creative classes, as well as anyone who opposed the Khmer Rouge regime, were targeted for mass execution while others suffered diseases and famine.

*Please note: For some, the Wat Thmei can be a very emotional visit, travelers who do not wish to take part in this portion of today's schedule may opt for free time in Siem Reap instead.*

After paying your respects to Cambodia's past, celebrate its resilience. Tonight, you'll see Siem Reap come alive with a visit to the night bazaar where your Tour Director will pick out local specialties for you to sample. Afterwards, enjoy free time to peruse the stalls before sitting down for an included dinner with beer or wine.

### Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom & Ta Prohm

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Today, you'll experience some of Southeast Asia's most iconic sites, including Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument.

- Rise early today and see the impressive Angkor Wat be illuminated by the morning light—a UNESCO World Heritage site that was built as a Hindu temple and became a Buddhist temple, all in the 12th century.
- Follow along as your Tour Director guides you and your fellow travelers through different areas of the temple—and, if you like, climb a set of steep, narrow stairs to a third-story viewing area.
- Depart Angkor Wat and enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant.
- Continue along with your Tour Director to Angkor Thom, the ruined capital complex of the Khmer Empire that dates to the late 12th and early 13th centuries.
- View the Terrace of the Elephants, the striking, ornamental wall from which King Jayavarman VII—King of the Khmer Empire—looked out over his victorious returning army; the Terrace of the Leper King, which is home to an androgynous statue whose meaning remains somewhat mysterious; and Bayon, the staggeringly detailed state temple of King Jayavarman VII.
- Depart Siem Reap and enjoy the glowing

embers of the evening light at Ta Prohm, a temple that has largely been reclaimed by the jungle and served as a filming location for the 2001 movie *Lara Craft: Tomb Raider*, starring Angelina Jolie.

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## **Bangkok → 1 night**

### **Day 14: Flight to Bangkok**

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Use your free time in Siem Reap this morning for one last trip to an artisan market for textiles or handmade crafts—or to simply relax—before flying back to Bangkok, where you'll celebrate your trip during a group farewell dinner served with beer or wine.

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## **Flight home**

### **Day 15: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your early morning flight home. In Thai culture, we don't leave without saying goodbye. Take your time as you depart and if you're feeling it, offer a parting *wai*—the Thai greeting is also used when bidding farewell.

## 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/TOM](https://goaheadtours.com/TOM) | 1-800-597-0350

### **Day 8: Krabi Thai Cooking Class**

\$85/\$95\* (3.5 hours, departs in the evening, includes dinner)

This evening, take part in a Thai cooking class where you'll learn how to craft delicious and authentic Thai dishes with chefs guiding the way. Head to a local culinary school in the Krabi region where the chefs will begin with a lesson on traditional ingredients used in Thai cooking. Then, try your hand at preparing local dishes, like curry, alongside professional chefs. Afterward, sit down to enjoy the meal you've cooked together.

### **Day 10: Krabi Junk Cruise & Lunch**

\$145/\$155\* (7 hours, departs in the afternoon, includes lunch)

Spend the afternoon on the water aboard a Junk, an ancient, fixed-sail Chinese ship design that is still used today throughout Asia. Enjoy a leisurely cruise along the picturesque Krabi coastline, visiting a handful of islands—like Poda, Chicken, Si and Ta Ming—with opportunities to swim, snorkel, kayak, paddleboard, or just relax and take it all in. You'll also be treated to a delicious buffet lunch onboard—featuring Thai specialties—as you sail the Andaman Sea. End the day by watching the sunset from the boat. Please note: Viewing the sunset is weather and seasonality dependent.

\*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](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)