Thailand's Cultural & Coastal Journey: Bangkok, Chiang Mai & Koh Yao Noi – 14 Days

14D / 13N	Easy	Private	USD 1,675 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

This 14-day Thai adventure combines the vibrant energy of Bangkok, the artistic and cultural richness of northern cities like Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai, and the tranquil beauty of Koh Yao Noi island.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Bangkok → Chiang Mai → Phuket

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview of Your Thai Adventure

Embark on a comprehensive 14-day exploration of Thailand, designed to showcase the nation's diverse appeal. This journey begins in the bustling capital of Bangkok, where ancient traditions meet modern city life. You'll then travel north to discover the unique cultural landscapes of Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai, known for their distinctive temples, hill tribe heritage, and culinary delights. The tour concludes with a relaxing escape to the serene beaches of Koh Yao Noi, offering a perfect blend of exploration and rejuvenation.

Journey Highlights

This itinerary features iconic landmarks and authentic cultural encounters. Witness the unique spectacle of the Maeklong Railway Market and explore the lively Damnoen Saduak Floating Market by longtail boat. Marvel at the intricate architecture of Bangkok's Grand Palace and the revered Emerald Buddha. In the north, encounter the striking White, Black, and Blue Temples, and visit the historic Golden Triangle. Experience ethical elephant interactions at a sanctuary and refine your culinary skills with a Thai cooking class. Conclude your adventure with ample leisure time on the pristine shores of Koh Yao Noi.

Route at a Glance

Your expedition commences in Bangkok, where you'll spend three days immersing yourself in city life and cultural sites. A domestic flight transports you to Chiang Rai for two days of exploration, including the Golden Triangle. The journey continues by road to Chiang Mai for five days, featuring temple tours, a cooking class, and an elephant sanctuary visit. Finally, a flight to Phuket and a speedboat transfer lead you to four days of relaxation on Koh Yao Noi before your departure from Phuket.

Who Will Love This Tour

This tour is ideal for travelers seeking a rich blend of cultural immersion, historical discovery, and natural beauty. It caters to those who appreciate vibrant city experiences, the tranquility of northern mountains, and the peaceful escape of a tropical island. Families and private groups will find the varied activities and opportunities for relaxation appealing, providing a well-rounded experience of Thailand's most captivating destinations.

Essential Information

Accommodation throughout the tour includes a mix of 4-star and 5-star hotels, ensuring comfort after days of exploration. Transportation involves private air-conditioned vehicles for transfers and tours, domestic flights between major regions, and a speedboat transfer to Koh Yao Noi. Meals specified are breakfasts, with some lunches and dinners included as per the itinerary. English-speaking local guides will accompany you on most excursions, enhancing your understanding of Thailand's heritage and customs.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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* Witness the unique Maeklong Railway Market and explore the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market by motorboat.
* Discover the grandeur of Bangkok's Grand Palace and the sacred Emerald Buddha, alongside the Reclining Buddha at Wat Pho.
* Experience a thrilling midnight street food tour by Tuk Tuk through Bangkok's Chinatown and Flower Market.
* Visit the historic Golden Triangle, where Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar converge, with an optional Mae Khong River cruise.
* Admire the distinctive artistry of Chiang Rai's White Temple, Black House, and Blue Temple.
* Participate in an ethical half-day elephant sanctuary experience near Chiang Mai, learning about and interacting with elephants.
* Learn to prepare authentic Thai dishes during a hands-on cooking class in Chiang Mai.
* Relax and enjoy several days of leisure on the tranquil beaches of Koh Yao Noi island.
* Explore Chiang Mai's Old Town, including ancient temples like Wat Phra Singh and Wat Chedi Luang, followed by a traditional Thai massage.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Bangkok Arrival & Hotel Transfer

Stay: Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort | Transport: Private AC vehicle

Upon your arrival at Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport, a friendly driver will greet you. You'll then be transferred directly to your hotel for check-in, allowing you to settle in comfortably after your journey. The remainder of the day is free for you to relax at your accommodation or begin a gentle exploration of the surrounding area at your own pace. Bangkok offers a myriad of sights and sounds, even in the immediate vicinity of most hotels.
Consider taking a leisurely stroll to familiarize yourself with the local atmosphere, perhaps sampling some street food or enjoying a refreshing drink. This initial evening serves as an introduction to the vibrant energy of Thailand's capital, preparing you for the exciting days ahead. Spend your first night in Bangkok, recharging for the adventures to come.

Activities: Airport pickup and hotel transfer
Check-in at hotel
Leisure time in Bangkok

Day 2 — Bangkok's Iconic Markets & Grand Landmarks

Meals: B | Stay: Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort | Transport: Private AC vehicle, motor boat

Your day begins with an early morning drive southwest from Bangkok to the fascinating Maeklong Railway Market. Here, you'll witness vendors swiftly retracting their stalls as a train approaches, an incredible sight perfect for photography. After experiencing this unique market, enjoy some local snacks before continuing to Damnoen Saduak, a renowned rural floating market.

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At Damnoen Saduak, board a motorboat for a scenic journey along the waterways, navigating through the bustling and colorful market. In the afternoon, return to the city to explore Wat Pho, home to the magnificent 45-meter-long Reclining Buddha. Next, visit the Grand Palace, Thailand's most significant landmark, admiring its majestic architecture and throne halls, and viewing the revered Emerald Buddha.

The cultural exploration continues with a visit to Wat Saket. Ascend the Golden Mount for a panoramic vista of Rattanakosin Island, accompanied by the gentle chimes of temple bells. A short walk leads to Soi Ban Batra, a community famous for crafting monk's alms bowls. Conclude your guided visits at Jim Thompson's Mansion, a teak house filled with Asian antiques, learning about the intriguing life of the American silk entrepreneur. The rest of your evening is free to further explore Bangkok independently.

Activities:
Visit Maeklong Railway Market
Enjoy local snacks
Take a motorboat trip at Damnoen Saduak Floating Market
Explore Wat Pho and the Reclining Buddha
Tour the Grand Palace and view the Emerald Buddha
Climb the Golden Mount at Wat Saket for city views
Walk through Soi Ban Batra handicraft community
Guided tour of Jim Thompson's Mansion
Free time in Bangkok

Day 3 Leisure Day & Bangkok Midnight Street Food Tour

Meals: B,D | Stay: Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort | Transport: Tuk Tuk

The daytime hours are yours to spend at leisure, allowing you to relax at the hotel or delve deeper into Bangkok's attractions on your own. You might choose to visit a museum, enjoy some shopping, or simply unwind by the pool. This flexibility provides a perfect opportunity to customize your experience of the city.

As evening descends, prepare for an exciting Midnight Food Tour by Tuk Tuk. This popular and dynamic excursion offers a fantastic way to discover the capital's renowned street food culture. Your driver will navigate through the vibrant streets, taking you to key areas such as Chinatown, the bustling Flower Market, and the lively Khao San Road.

Throughout the tour, you'll stop at various street food stalls, night markets, and local eateries. This provides ample opportunity to sample an array of traditional Thai delicacies. Indulge in classic dishes like Pad Thai, savor the rich flavors of green curry, enjoy sweet mango sticky rice, and for the adventurous, even try fried insects. This culinary journey offers an authentic taste of Bangkok's nocturnal charm.

Activities:
Free time for personal exploration or relaxation
Midnight Street Food Tour by Tuk Tuk
Visit Chinatown, Flower Market, and Khao San Road
Sample various Thai street food dishes

Day 4 Flight to Chiang Rai & Northern Thailand Arrival

Meals: B | Stay: The Riverie by Katathani Hotel | Transport: Private AC vehicle, domestic flight

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After breakfast at your Bangkok hotel, you will be transferred to Bangkok Airport to board a domestic flight heading north to Chiang Rai. This transition marks your journey from the bustling capital to the serene landscapes of northern Thailand.
Upon landing at Chiang Rai Airport, a private driver from your hotel will be waiting to welcome you. They will provide a comfortable transfer directly to your accommodation, ensuring a smooth and effortless arrival. The rest of your day is free to settle in, relax, and begin to appreciate the distinct atmosphere of Chiang Rai, a city known for its artistic temples and proximity to natural beauty. Spend the night in Chiang Rai, preparing for the adventures that await in this unique region.

Activities: Transfer to Bangkok Airport
Domestic flight to Chiang Rai
Airport pickup and hotel transfer in Chiang Rai
Check-in at hotel
Leisure time in Chiang Rai

Day 5 Golden Triangle Exploration & Mae Salong Tea Hills

Meals: B | Stay: The Riverie by Katathani Hotel | Transport: Private AC vehicle, river boat (optional)

This morning, your driver will take you on a scenic uphill journey to Mae Salong. This area is renowned for its tea production, offering opportunities for tea tasting and purchasing local blends. While formal plantation tours aren't typically available, you can freely walk through the tea fields and capture photographs of the picturesque scenery.
Doi Mae Salong is also home to Santi Khiri Village, a community founded by former Chinese 93rd Division soldiers who settled in Thailand in 1961. The village is celebrated for its enchanting vistas and peaceful ambiance. Following your visit, you'll proceed to the Opium House Museum to learn about the region's historical connection to the opium trade.
The journey continues to the iconic Golden Triangle area, the confluence of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar. Here, you have the chance to embark on a riverboat ride along the mighty Mae Khong River. This cruise offers stunning views of the landscapes that delineate the three countries, providing a unique perspective before you return to the mainland of Chiang Rai. The remainder of your day is at leisure.

Activities: Drive to Mae Salong and explore tea hills
Visit Santi Khiri Village
Tour the Opium House Museum
Explore the Golden Triangle area
Optional Mae Khong River boat ride
Leisure time in Chiang Rai

Day 6 Chiang Rai's Artistic Temples & Journey to Chiang Mai

Meals: B | Stay: Na Nirand Romantic Boutique Resort | Transport: Private AC vehicle

After breakfast, you'll depart from Chiang Rai by van, heading towards the cultural hub of Chiang Mai. En route, your first stop is Baan Dam, famously known as the Black House. This unique complex is the creation of national artist Thawan Duchanee, blending traditional northern Thai architecture with striking modern designs, serving as an art studio, museum, and home.
Next, visit Wat Rong Khun, universally recognized as the White Temple, an extraordinary contemporary Buddhist temple with

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intricate, shimmering details. You'll also explore Wat Rong Suea Ten, the magnificent Blue Temple, celebrated for its vibrant blue hues and elaborate carvings. These three temples offer a fascinating contrast in artistic expression.
Enjoy a coffee break (at your own expense) at Chivit Thamma Da, a charming coffee house set in an English garden by the Mae Ping River. Upon arrival in Chiang Mai, you'll have the opportunity to savor a delicious bowl of Khao Soy at Monsoon Tea House Restaurant (lunch at your own expense), Chiang Mai's signature dish featuring crispy noodles in a rich coconut curry sauce. Following lunch, learn about sustainable and organic Monsoon tea from the restaurant's founder. The rest of the day is free for your own pursuits.

Activities: Visit Baan Dam (Black House)
Explore Wat Rong Khun (White Temple)
Discover Wat Rong Suea Ten (Blue Temple)
Coffee break at Chivit Thamma Da (optional, own expense)
Travel to Chiang Mai
Enjoy Khao Soy at Monsoon Tea House Restaurant (optional, own expense)
Learn about Monsoon tea
Free time in Chiang Mai

Day 7 Chiang Mai Old Town & Traditional Thai Massage

Meals: B | Stay: Na Nirand Romantic Boutique Resort | Transport: Walking, rickshaw

Your morning is dedicated to a captivating walking tour of Chiang Mai's historic Old Town. Begin by exploring remnants of the old city wall, the protective moat, and one of the ancient gates, providing insight into the city's past. You'll then visit some of Chiang Mai's most beautiful temples, including the revered Wat Phra Singh temple, the elegant Wat Phan Tao temple, and the impressive Wat Chedi Luang temple, each offering unique architectural and spiritual significance.
After soaking in the temple grandeur, you'll stroll through narrow streets lined with traditional houses, experiencing the local charm. A rickshaw tour will offer a leisurely way to see more of the area. Your exploration continues with a walk through the central Warorot Market, a bustling hub where you can observe daily life and local commerce.
In the afternoon, unwind with a rejuvenating 60-minute Traditional Thai massage at your hotel. This therapeutic experience is designed to promote deep relaxation, reduce stress, improve flexibility, and alleviate muscle tension. Following your massage, you'll have free time to relax at your hotel or enjoy the evening at your leisure.

Activities: Walking tour of Chiang Mai Old Town
Visit Wat Phra Singh, Wat Phan Tao, and Wat Chedi Luang temples
Stroll through traditional streets
Enjoy a rickshaw tour
Walk through Warorot Market
Experience a 60-minute Traditional Thai massage at the hotel
Free time

Day 8 Half-Day Thai Cooking Class & Free Afternoon

Meals: B,L | Stay: Na Nirand Romantic Boutique Resort | Transport: School team transfer

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Today, from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM, you will be picked up by a local cooking school team for a half-day Thai cooking class. This hands-on experience at Thai Farm Cooking offers a fantastic opportunity to learn the secrets and techniques of delicious Thai cuisine in an English-speaking environment.
The class begins with a visit to a local market, where you'll learn about various herbs and ingredients essential to Thai cooking. Following this, you'll receive explanations about fresh produce at the organic farm. You'll then engage in practical cooking, starting with preparing jasmine and sticky rice, and the intricate process of pounding and creating a curry paste from scratch. Under expert guidance, you'll choose and prepare one curry paste, one curry dish, and one soup. Additionally, you'll cook a noodle dish and a sweet dessert, all according to the day's menu. This immersive experience culminates in enjoying the dishes you've prepared for lunch. The remainder of your day is free for relaxation or further independent exploration of Chiang Mai.

Activities:
Half-day Thai cooking class
Visit a local market
Learn about herbs and ingredients at an organic farm
Cook jasmine rice and sticky rice
Make curry paste from scratch
Prepare one curry paste, one curry, and one soup
Cook a noodle dish and a sweet dessert
Enjoy the prepared meal for lunch
Free time in the afternoon

Day 9 Elephant Sanctuary & Doi Suthep Mountain Temple

Meals: B,L | Stay: Na Nirand Romantic Boutique Resort | Transport: Private AC vehicle

Your morning begins with a pickup from your hotel for a half-day visit to the Elephant Jungle Sanctuary. The drive takes approximately 1.5 hours south of Chiang Mai, passing through picturesque rolling hills, forests, and local farming areas. Upon arrival, you'll meet your guide and take a short walk through the jungle to the sanctuary. Here, you'll change into traditional Karen clothing and receive an introductory lesson on elephant anatomy, history, and behavior.
Spend time meeting, feeding, interacting with, and playing with the elephants in their natural environment, learning about their individual stories and behaviors. This offers a wonderful opportunity for photographs. Enjoy a traditional Thai lunch with fresh fruit. You'll then learn to make herbal medicine balls for the elephants, feed them, and walk with them to the river for bathing and brushing. Conclude with a therapeutic mud spa alongside the elephants and a swim in the river, capturing more memorable moments before changing clothes and bidding farewell to these gentle giants. You'll then be driven back to Chiang Mai.
In the afternoon, the journey continues to Doi Suthep mountain, home to one of Thailand's most historically and spiritually significant temples. Drive up the scenic mountainous roads, passing lush landscapes. Upon reaching the base, you'll ascend over 300 steps or take an elevator to the temple at the summit. From this vantage point, admire breathtaking panoramic views of Chiang Mai City, a truly rewarding experience.

Activities:
Half-day visit to Elephant Jungle Sanctuary
Learn about elephant anatomy and behavior
Feed, interact, and play with elephants
Enjoy traditional Thai lunch

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Make and feed herbal medicine balls to elephants
Bathe and brush elephants in the river
Participate in a mud spa with elephants
Visit Doi Suthep mountain temple
Ascend to the temple for panoramic views of Chiang Mai

Day 10 Chiang Mai to Koh Yao Noi Island Retreat

Meals: B | Stay: Paradise Koh Yao Resort | Transport: Private AC vehicle, domestic flight, speedboat

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Chiang Mai Airport to catch a domestic flight to Phuket. This transition takes you from the northern mountains to the southern Andaman Sea, marking a shift towards a relaxing island escape.
Upon arrival at Phuket, a private transfer will take you to Yacht Haven Marina Pier. From there, you will board a hotel speedboat for a scenic journey to the serene Koh Yao Noi island. Please note that the hotel accepts the last booking for private speedboats at 4:00 PM.
The remainder of your day is free to settle into your island accommodation, unwind, and begin to soak in the tranquil atmosphere of Koh Yao Noi. Enjoy the peaceful surroundings and prepare for several days of relaxation by the sun and sea. Spend your first night on this beautiful island.

Activities: Transfer to Chiang Mai Airport
Domestic flight to Phuket
Transfer to Yacht Haven Marina Pier
Speedboat transfer to Koh Yao Noi
Check-in at island resort
Free time on Koh Yao Noi

Day 11 Koh Yao Noi: Island Leisure & Relaxation

Meals: B | Stay: Paradise Koh Yao Resort

Today is dedicated to pure relaxation and enjoyment of the beautiful island of Koh Yao Noi. With no scheduled activities, you have the freedom to design your day exactly as you wish. This is a perfect opportunity to unwind by the resort's pool, stroll along the pristine beaches, or simply bask in the tropical sunshine.
The island offers a tranquil escape from the bustling cities, allowing you to fully appreciate the natural beauty of the Andaman Sea. You might consider swimming in the clear waters, reading a book under a palm tree, or exploring the immediate vicinity of your resort. Enjoy the serene environment and the gentle sounds of the ocean, truly embracing the 'free and easy' pace of island life.

Activities: Free time for sunbathing and swimming
Relaxation at the resort or beach
Personal exploration of Koh Yao Noi

Day 12 Koh Yao Noi: Uninterrupted Beach Bliss

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Meals: B | Stay: Paradise Koh Yao Resort

Another full day awaits for you to indulge in the laid-back charm of Koh Yao Noi. Continue to enjoy the freedom of having no fixed plans, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the island's peaceful ambiance. Whether you prefer active pursuits or complete idleness, the day is entirely yours.

Consider exploring more of the island's hidden coves, perhaps renting a bicycle to discover local villages, or trying some water sports available through your resort. Alternatively, simply relax on the beach, listen to the waves, and enjoy the stunning views of Phang Nga Bay. This day is designed for you to recharge and savor the tranquility of your tropical surroundings.

Activities: Free time for beach activities and relaxation
Personal exploration or leisure at the resort

Day 13 Koh Yao Noi: Final Day of Island Serenity

Meals: B | Stay: Paradise Koh Yao Resort

Savor your final full day on the idyllic island of Koh Yao Noi. This is your last chance to enjoy the serene beaches, warm waters, and peaceful atmosphere before your journey concludes. Make the most of this free time, perhaps revisiting a favorite spot or discovering something new.

You might opt for a relaxing spa treatment, take a final swim in the ocean, or simply enjoy a leisurely breakfast with views of the bay. Reflect on your Thai adventure, from the vibrant cities to the cultural north, and now the tranquil south. This day is entirely dedicated to your personal enjoyment and relaxation, ensuring a perfect end to your island retreat.

Activities: Free time for relaxation and enjoying the island
Personal activities and leisure

Day 14 Koh Yao Noi Departure & Phuket Airport Transfer

Meals: B | Transport: Speedboat, private AC vehicle

Enjoy a final morning at leisure on Koh Yao Noi. Depending on your flight schedule, you might have time for one last swim, a relaxed breakfast, or some souvenir shopping. Make the most of these last moments of island tranquility.

At the appropriate time, you will take a speedboat from your hotel back to the mainland of Phuket. Upon arrival in Phuket, a private transfer will be arranged to take you directly to Phuket Airport for your onward flight. This marks the conclusion of your comprehensive Thai journey, filled with cultural discoveries and tropical relaxation.

Activities: Free time in the morning on Koh Yao Noi
Speedboat transfer from hotel to Phuket mainland
Transfer to Phuket Airport
Departure flight

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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INCLUDED

- v Local English speaking guides as mentioned in the program (Except guide for any join-in tour)
- v Meals as mentioned in the program: B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner
- v Tours and transfers in private AC vehicles.
- v Entrance fees and sightseeing as mentioned in the program.
- v Boat, Canoe tickets
- v Drinking water bottle.
- v Service charges and government tax.

NOT INCLUDED

- x International and domestic flight tickets.
- x Meals and drinks which are not mentioned in the program
- x Early check in (before 14.00)/ late check out (after 12.00 noon) fees at hotel
- x Other services are not mentioned in the program
- x International flight tickets and airport taxes in economy class/business class
- x Tips and personal expenses.
- x Travelers' Personal insurance. (Compulsory)
- x Any services not clearly mentioned in the program.
- x Porters at hotel

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Local English speaking guides as mentioned in the program (Except guide for any join-in tour)
- v Meals as mentioned in the program: B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner
- v Tours and transfers in private AC vehicles.
- v Entrance fees and sightseeing as mentioned in the program.
- v Boat, Canoe tickets
- v Drinking water bottle.
- v Service charges and government tax.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-1128BDA57B5F