Thailand's Grand Odyssey: Cities, Culture, & Coast – 14 Days

14D / 13N	Easy	Private	USD 1,512 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Experience the diverse landscapes and rich heritage of Thailand on this 14-day journey. Discover Bangkok's iconic landmarks, delve into ancient history in Ayutthaya and Kanchanaburi, explore the northern regions of Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai, and relax by the sea in Hua Hin.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Bangkok → Ayutthaya → Chiang Mai

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview

This comprehensive 14-day itinerary offers an expansive exploration of Thailand, balancing cultural immersion with natural beauty and relaxation. Begin your adventure in the vibrant capital of Bangkok, where ancient temples stand alongside modern marvels. Journey through historical sites and bustling markets before heading north to the misty mountains and rich Lanna culture of Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai. Conclude your tour with tranquil days on the pristine beaches of Hua Hin, providing a perfect blend of discovery and repose.

Tour Highlights

This journey through Thailand features a variety of unique experiences, from spiritual encounters to natural wonders and cultural discoveries. Each day brings new insights into the Kingdom's diverse offerings.

Route Summary

Your expedition commences in Bangkok, progressing southwest to Kanchanaburi, then east to the ancient capital of Ayutthaya. A domestic flight transports you north to Chiang Rai, followed by explorations of the Golden Triangle and Chiang Saen. The journey continues to Chiang Mai, the northern capital, before a final flight back to Bangkok and a scenic transfer to the coastal retreat of Hua Hin. The tour concludes with a return transfer to Bangkok for your departure.

Who This Tour Suits

This tour is designed for active travelers, families, and those seeking a private and personalized experience. It caters to individuals interested in nature, relaxation, history, classic cultural immersion, and soft adventure, offering a well-rounded and engaging exploration of Thailand's many facets.

Practical Information

Throughout your journey, expect varied terrain and activities. Comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended, especially for temple visits and exploring natural sites like Erawan Waterfall. A swimsuit is advisable if you wish to enjoy the waterfall's natural pools. While many meals are included, some lunches and dinners are at your leisure, providing opportunities to sample local cuisine independently. Always stay hydrated, especially in Thailand's tropical climate.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Witness the monks' early morning chanting ritual at Wat Pho in Bangkok
* Marvel at the grandeur of the Grand Palace and the revered Emerald Buddha
* Navigate the unique Maeklong Railway Market and the vibrant Damnoen Saduak Floating Market

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* Explore WWII history at Kanchanaburi, including the Bridge over the River Kwai
* Hike to the seven-tiered Erawan Waterfall within Erawan National Park
* Discover the ancient ruins of Ayutthaya, including Wat Mahathat and Bang Pa-In Summer Palace
* Visit the iconic White Temple (Wat Rong Khun) and the intriguing Black House (Baan Dam) in Chiang Rai
* Take a long-tail boat trip on the Mekong River at the legendary Golden Triangle
* Encounter the Padong Karen hill tribe, known for their unique brass neck rings
* Experience Chiang Mai's old town, sacred Doi Suthep temple, and lively Night Market
* Learn about sustainable paper making at the Elephant Poopoo paper farm
* Enjoy a serene boat cruise along the Mae Ping River, observing traditional riverside life
* Relax and unwind on the beautiful beaches of Hua Hin

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Bangkok Arrival & Leisure Time

Stay: Eleven Hotel Bangkok Sukhumvit | Transport: Private air-conditioned vehicle

Upon your arrival at Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport, a dedicated tour guide and driver will greet you. They will provide a comfortable transfer to your pre-arranged hotel, assisting with the check-in process. The remainder of your first day in Thailand is allocated for personal leisure, allowing you to settle in and relax after your journey.

Activities: Airport greeting and transfer
Hotel check-in
Leisure time

Day 2 Bangkok Temples, Grand Palace & River Khlongs

Meals: B,L | Stay: Eleven Hotel Bangkok Sukhumvit | Transport: Private air-conditioned vehicle, long-tail boat

Begin your day with an early visit to Wat Pho, aiming to experience the tranquil morning chanting ritual performed by the monks, which typically commences at 9:00 AM. After this serene observation, explore the temple grounds, home to the impressive 45-meter-long Reclining Buddha statue.
Continue your cultural journey to The Grand Palace, a pivotal landmark in Thailand. Here, you will be captivated by the architectural splendor of its buildings and throne halls. Witness the revered Emerald Buddha, a highly significant religious icon in Thailand. A delightful Thai lunch will be served at the Never Ending Summer restaurant, offering a rustic ambiance by the Chao Phraya River. Please note that lunch includes a choice of one main dish and drinking water.
In the afternoon, board a traditional long-tail boat for a scenic ride along the majestic Chao Phraya River. The boat will then venture into a network of Khlongs, or canals, guiding you away from typical tourist routes. Along these waterways, you will visit

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Wat Khun Chan, an intriguing temple rarely frequented by visitors. Cross a small footbridge to explore old alleys, perhaps enjoying a refreshing coffee, before reaching Wat Paknam, known for its distinctive white stupa and hidden museum. The boat journey continues through a picturesque section of the Khlongs, showcasing a mix of traditional wooden houses and contemporary mansions, culminating in a visit to an orchid and fruit farm where you can observe various orchid species. Finally, you will be transferred back to your hotel, concluding the day's excursions.

Activities: Attend morning chanting ritual at Wat Pho
Visit the Reclining Buddha
Explore The Grand Palace and Emerald Buddha
Enjoy lunch at Never Ending Summer restaurant
Take a long-tail boat trip on Chao Phraya River and Khlongs
Visit Wat Khun Chan
Explore old alleys and enjoy coffee
Visit Wat Paknam and its hidden museum
Walk through an orchid and fruit farm

Day 3 Maeklong Railway Market, Damnoen Saduak & Kanchanaburi History

Meals: B,L | Stay: U Inchantree Kanchanaburi Resort | Transport: Private air-conditioned vehicle, motor boat, train

Your morning begins with a drive southwest from Bangkok to the unique Maeklong Railway Market. Here, you'll have the opportunity to observe vendors swiftly retracting their stalls as a train passes directly through the market, a truly remarkable sight. Take photos and sample local snacks before continuing your journey to Damnoen Saduak.
At Damnoen Saduak, experience the charm of a rural floating market. Board a motorboat for a ride along the waterways, navigating through the picturesque market where goods are sold directly from boats. After exploring the market, the road trip continues towards the city of Kanchanaburi.
Upon arrival in Kanchanaburi, delve into World War II history with visits to the Jeath War Museum and the War Cemetery, poignant memorials to the conflict. Conclude your historical exploration by boarding a train for a scenic 30-minute ride along the river, followed by a visit to the iconic Bridge over the River Kwai. You will then check into your hotel for the night in Kanchanaburi.

Activities: Visit Maeklong Railway Market
Take photos and enjoy local snacks
Motorboat trip to Damnoen Saduak Floating Market
Visit Jeath War Museum
Explore the War Cemetery
Ride a train along the river
Visit the Bridge over the River Kwai

Day 4 Erawan Waterfall & Ancient Ayutthaya Exploration

Meals: B | Stay: Kantary Hotel Ayutthaya | Transport: Private air-conditioned vehicle

After breakfast, depart for Erawan Waterfall, a magnificent seven-tiered cascade situated within Erawan National Park. Prepare

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for a refreshing walk up the trails to discover the various levels of these picturesque falls. Remember to bring comfortable walking shoes, and if you wish to swim in the natural pools, a swimsuit is recommended.
Following your waterfall adventure, you will continue your journey by road to Ayutthaya. This drive covers approximately 220 kilometers and takes about 3.5 hours. The ancient city of Ayutthaya, often referred to as the 'Venice of the East' due to its location along the Chao Phraya River and its surrounding tributaries, holds significant historical importance. Founded in 1350 by King Uthong, it served as the capital when the Thai people migrated south. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy some free time at your leisure.

Activities: Visit Erawan Waterfall
Walk up to the picturesque falls
Swim in natural pools (optional)
Travel to Ayutthaya
Hotel check-in
Leisure time

Day 5 Ayutthaya Temples, Royal Palace & Flight to Chiang Rai

Meals: B | Stay: Nak Nakara Hotel | Transport: Kermit tuk-tuk, private air-conditioned vehicle, domestic flight

Begin your day exploring Ayutthaya's historical treasures aboard a unique Kermit tuk-tuk, a distinctive vehicle found only in this province and Trang. Your ride will take you to several prominent temples, starting with Wat Yai Chaimongkol. Next, visit Wat Mahathat, famous for the Buddha head intertwined within the roots of a tree. Enjoy a stroll through a local market en route to Wat Phra Srisanphet.
Following your temple explorations, the tour proceeds to the Bang Pa-In Summer Palace. This royal residence, dating back to the Ayutthaya era, showcases an intriguing blend of European, Khmer, Thai, and Chinese architectural styles, reflecting its history as a favored retreat for the King. After the palace visit, you will be transferred back to Bangkok to catch your flight to Chiang Rai.
Upon arrival at Chiang Rai, a local guide will meet you and provide a transfer to your hotel. The evening is free for you to relax and settle into your new surroundings.

Activities: Explore Ayutthaya by Kermit tuk-tuk
Visit Wat Yai Chaimongkol
See Wat Mahathat (Buddha head in tree roots)
Stroll through a local market
Visit Wat Phra Srisanphet
Tour Bang Pa-In Summer Palace
Transfer to Bangkok airport
Fly to Chiang Rai
Airport pickup and hotel transfer in Chiang Rai
Leisure time

Day 6 Chiang Rai Market, Temples & Baan Dam Art House

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Meals: B,L | Stay: Nak Nakara Hotel | Transport: Private air-conditioned vehicle, boat cruise

After breakfast, your guide will lead you to a local market, offering an authentic glimpse into daily life and an opportunity to discover regional products. Following the market visit, you will explore the renowned Wat Phra Kaew, a temple historically significant as the former home of the Emerald Buddha image.
Continue to Wat Phra Singh, which enshrines one of Thailand's most beautiful Buddha images. A short drive from Chiang Rai city takes you to Baan Dam, also known as the Black House. This unique complex is the creation of national artist Thawan Duchanee, serving as an art studio, museum, and home, featuring an eclectic mix of traditional northern Thai structures and striking modern designs. Lunch will be at your own expense, allowing you flexibility.
In the afternoon, embark on a boat cruise along the Mae Kok River from Chiang Rai to a Karen village. Here, you can observe or feed elephants. Afterwards, enjoy a one-hour elephant trekking experience. Conclude your day with a transfer back to Chiang Rai for your overnight stay.

Activities:
Visit a local market
Explore Wat Phra Kaew
Visit Wat Phra Singh
Discover Baan Dam (Black House)
Boat cruise on Mae Kok River to Karen village
Observe or feed elephants
Enjoy a 1-hour elephant trekking

Day 7 Mae Salong Tea Hills & Golden Triangle Mekong Cruise

Meals: B | Stay: Viang Yonok Hotel | Transport: Private air-conditioned vehicle, boat trip

Following breakfast, you will journey north into the picturesque, mountainous, and forested regions of Thailand. Your morning exploration begins with a drive to Mae Salong, ascending and descending green hills blanketed with extensive tea plantations. Take the opportunity to taste the exquisite tea produced in one of the many local plantations.
Upon reaching Doi Mae Salong, you will visit an ethnic minority village, the Akah village of Loyo, offering insight into their unique culture. Afterward, explore the Mae Fah Luang botanical garden. The journey then takes you to the legendary Golden Triangle, the point where Thailand, Burma (Myanmar), and Laos converge. Here, you will embark on a boat trip along the Mekong River, providing panoramic views of these three countries meeting. Your overnight stay will be in Chiang Saen.

Activities:
Drive to Mae Salong
Visit tea plantations and taste tea
Explore Akah of Loyo ethnic minority village
Visit Mae Fah Luang botanical garden
Drive to the Golden Triangle
Take a boat trip on the Mekong River

Day 8 Thaton Town, Karen Hill Tribe & Chiang Mai Journey

Meals: B | Stay: Aruntara Riverside | Transport: Private air-conditioned vehicle

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After breakfast, you will depart from your hotel for Thaton Town. Along the way, make a brief stop at the village of Patai to meet the Padong Karen hill tribe, famously known for their women who wear distinctive copper necklaces to elongate their necks. Upon arrival in Thaton Town, visit Thaton Wat, a significant temple in the area. Enjoy your lunch at a restaurant conveniently located on the banks of the Kok River. In the afternoon, embark on a scenic road trip to Chiang Mai, often referred to as the 'Capital of the North.' En route, you will pause for a fascinating walk through the intricate maze of underground galleries in Chiang Dao. Upon arrival in Chiang Mai, check into your hotel, where you will have leisure time before your overnight stay.

Activities: Travel to Thaton Town
Visit Patai village and meet Padong Karen hill tribe
Visit Thaton Wat
Enjoy lunch by the Kok River
Drive to Chiang Mai
Walk through underground galleries in Chiang Dao
Hotel check-in
Leisure time

Day 9 Chiang Mai Old Town, Temples & Doi Suthep Views

Meals: B | Stay: Aruntara Riverside | Transport: Private air-conditioned vehicle, rickshaw

Upon arrival at Chiang Mai train station, your tour guide will meet you and escort you to a local restaurant for breakfast and coffee. The morning is dedicated to a walking tour of the old town. You will explore the ancient wall, moat, and one of the old town's historic gates. Discover some of Chiang Mai's most beautiful temples, including Wat Phra Singh, Wat Phan Tao, and Wat Chedi Luang.
Stroll along charming small streets lined with traditional houses and experience a delightful rickshaw tour. Afterwards, take a walk through the central Warorot Market, a bustling hub of local commerce. After lunch, you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in. In the afternoon, a visit to Doi Suthep hill is a highlight. This mountain temple is among Thailand's most historically and spiritually significant sites. You will drive up scenic mountainous terrains, passing lush landscapes to reach the base of the temple complex. Ascend over 300 steps or take an elevator to the summit, where you can admire picturesque panoramic views of Chiang Mai City. The evening offers an opportunity to browse the vibrant Night Market. You will stay overnight in Chiang Mai.

Activities: Enjoy breakfast and coffee at a local restaurant
Walk through Chiang Mai's old town (wall, moat, gate)
Visit Wat Phra Singh, Wat Phan Tao, Wat Chedi Luang temples
Take a rickshaw tour
Walk through Warorot central market
Drive to Doi Suthep hill
Climb or take elevator to Doi Suthep temple
Admire panoramic views of Chiang Mai City
Browse the Night Market

Day 10 Elephant Poopoo Paper Park & Mae Ping River Cruise

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Meals: B,L | Stay: Aruntara Riverside | Transport: Private air-conditioned vehicle, boat trip

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the Elephant Poopoo Paper Farm. This eco-friendly, outdoor museum park is naturally built and designed to educate visitors on the unique process of creating paper products from elephant dung fibers. Across eight pavilions, the park demonstrates each step, from raw elephant waste to the final paper product. You will also have the exciting opportunity to participate in making your own poopoo paper.
The afternoon features a two-hour boat trip along the tranquil Mae Ping River. This leisurely cruise offers an excellent way to spend your afternoon, allowing you to observe the changing scenery along the riverbanks. You will pass many beautiful traditional teak houses and lush rural greenery. After the river cruise, you will be transferred back to your hotel, with the rest of the day at your leisure.

Activities: Visit Elephant Poopoo Paper Farm
Learn about paper making from elephant dung
Practice making poopoo paper
Take a 2-hour boat trip on the Mae Ping River
Observe riverside scenery and traditional houses

Day 11 Flight to Bangkok & Transfer to Hua Hin Beach

Meals: B | Stay: Avani+ Hua Hin Resort | Transport: Domestic flight, private air-conditioned vehicle

In the morning, you will take a domestic flight from Chiang Mai back to Bangkok. Upon arrival at Bangkok airport, a driver will be waiting to transfer you to Hua Hin, a popular coastal town. The journey to Hua Hin covers approximately 200 kilometers and takes about 3 hours by car. Once you arrive, you will check into your hotel and have the remainder of the day free to relax and enjoy the various beach activities available.

Activities: Morning flight from Chiang Mai to Bangkok
Airport pickup in Bangkok
Transfer by car to Hua Hin
Hotel check-in
Leisure time for beach activities

Day 12 Relaxing Day in Hua Hin

Meals: B | Stay: Avani+ Hua Hin Resort

Today is entirely at your leisure to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of Hua Hin. You can choose to spend your day unwinding on the long stretches of sandy beach, swimming in the clear waters, or simply soaking up the sun. Explore the local area, perhaps visiting a market or enjoying the resort's facilities. The day is yours to customize according to your preferences.

Activities: Full day at leisure in Hua Hin
Enjoy beach activities
Relax at the resort

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Day 13 Hua Hin Beach Leisure

Meals: B | Stay: Avani+ Hua Hin Resort

Another full day is provided for your enjoyment and relaxation in Hua Hin. Continue to explore the charming coastal town at your own pace, indulge in fresh seafood, or simply spend more time on the beach. This day offers ample opportunity for personal pursuits, whether it's a spa treatment, a round of golf, or simply enjoying the tranquil seaside environment.

Activities: Full day at leisure in Hua Hin
Enjoy beach activities
Explore Hua Hin town

Day 14 Hua Hin Departure & Bangkok Airport Transfer

Meals: B | Transport: Private air-conditioned vehicle

Enjoy your final hours of leisure in Hua Hin during the morning. Depending on your flight schedule, you may have time for a last stroll on the beach or a relaxed breakfast. Approximately three hours before your departure, a private car will transfer you from Hua Hin directly to Bangkok airport, ensuring you arrive in good time for your onward journey.

Activities: Leisure time in Hua Hin
Transfer by car to Bangkok airport
Departure from Bangkok

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v English-speaking guide during tour activities
- v Private air-conditioned vehicle for transfers and excursions
- v Accommodation in specified hotels or similar properties
- v All excursions and visits detailed in the itinerary
- v Entrance tickets and boat fees as per the itinerary
- v Private long-tail boat journey on the Chao Phraya River
- v Meals as indicated (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- v Applicable taxes and service charges

NOT INCLUDED

- x International and domestic airfare not specified
- x Early hotel check-in or late check-out fees
- x Alcoholic beverages
- x Travel insurance (mandatory)
- x Personal expenses
- x Gratuities for guides, drivers, and porters
- x Visa fees

PRICE INCLUDES

- v English-speaking guide during tour activities

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- v Applicable taxes and service charges

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-9658F68C7CE2