# TripCompanion®



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

# Best of Thailand

## 10-Day, 9-Night Journey

Chiang Mai, Bangkok, Ayutthaya, Phuket

This journey is jam-packed with experiences and top destinations that highlight the best that Thailand has to offer. Cover culture, heritage, cuisine and exciting seaside activities on our exciting tour. Thailand's stunning beauty and charismatic culture are all on display on this adventure. Thailand conjures up images of spicy delicacies, golden Buddhas, colorful hilltribe villages, fantastic shopping and exotic hideaways. To round this off, a tasty cooking class lets you try your hand at creating some gastronomic delights while getting the best tips from the locals.

#### ✦ Customizable Private Tour

### Trip Overview (\*UNESCO World Heritage Sites)

- Wat Pra That Doi Suthep
- Visit Umbrella Village
- Live Cooking Class
  Bangkok City Tour
- Long-Tail Boat Ride

- Grand Palace
- Wat Phra Kaew
- (Emerald Buddha)
- Wat Traimit
- (Golden Buddha Temple)
- ► Wat Arun (the Temple of Dawn) ► Wat Pho (Reclining Buddha)

- Amphawa Floating Market
- Maeklong Railway Market
- Ayutthaya Historical Park\* (Palaces & Temples)
- ► Phuket Beaches
- ▶ Phang Nga Bay Sea Cave Tour

# Why You'll Love This Tour





#### THE ART OF THE TEMPLES

Thailand's classical arts developed almost exclusively in the service of Buddhism. The best showcases are the Buddhist temples that come in all different shapes and sizes, in gold, white and wood, and range from ancient ruins to modernistic architecture.

#### PARADISE ISLAND OF PHUKET

Southern Thailand offers stunning bays, exotic islands and beautiful national parks. Phuket island stands out with white sand beaches for a diverse range of moods. There are famous diving, snorkeling and kayaking sites from Ko Phi-Phi to Phang Nga Bay (James Bond Island).

#### KAREN LONG NECK HILL TRIBE

There are 6 main mountain tribes in northern Thailand, each with its own culture, language and religion. One of the tribes is the Karen. Their women put brass rings on their neck starting from 5 or 6 years old and add more rings every year.

### Inclusions

- Private Airport Transfers
- Hotel Accommodations
- Daily Breakfast & Selected Meals (See tour plan for details)
- ► English-speaking Local Guide
- Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per Itinerary

### Exclusions

- Airfare
- Travel Insurance
- Medical Expenses
- ▸ Visa Fee
- Gratuity
- Personal Expenses

### Nearby Airport

Chiang Mai - Chiang Mai International Airport (CNX) Phuket – Phuket International Airport (HKT) Bangkok - Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK)

# Itinerary

#### **3 NIGHTS IN CHIANG MAI**

#### DAY 1: CHIANG MAI

Upon arrival into **Chiang Mai**, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free. Chiang Mai is an ancient capital city and is famed for its 300 temples, many of them are within the walled old city. Northern Thailand is filled with ancient monuments, museums and beautiful mountains. Its markets filled with distinctive local handcrafts and awesome food. [Meals: None]



### DAY 2: CHIANG MAI TEMPLE & HANDICRAFT

Visit **Wat Pra That Doi Suthep** at 5,250 ft summit of Doi Suthep mountain and national park. Enjoy the panoramic view from the temple. Followed by visit to **Bo Srang** ("umbrella village") and **Sankamphaeng** village for their renowned decorative umbrellas, Thai silks, lacquerware, celadon (a grayish green porcelain) and other handicrafts. Bargaining politely with the sellers is recommended. [Meals: Breakfast]

#### DAY 3: CHIANG MAI COOKING CLASS

Start the morning with a **cooking class** with a visit to a local market. Then share the fruits of your efforts over lunch. Chiang Mai food is distinct from other regions, with a more pronounced influence from neighboring Burma and China, resulting in milder curries and the heavier use of ginger and turmeric. After the cooking class, you are free to explore the markets and temples in the city. We highly recommend treating yourself to a rejuvenating traditional Thai massage!

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

#### **3 NIGHTS IN BANGKOK**

### DAY 4: CHIANG MAI - BANGKOK | HALF DAY BANGKOK CITY TOUR

Fly south to **Bangkok** today. Upon arrival, you'll be met at the airport. Bangkok is the vibrant capital city of Thailand that dazzles visitors with its vivid contrasts – serene temples, gardens and royal palaces amid ultra-modern skyscrapers, bustling city crowds and epic night life. We kick off with a long-tail boat ride along the **Chao Phraya River**. We will also visit the most famous temples including Wat Arun (the Temple of Dawn), the Grand Palace, Wat Phra Kaew (Emerald Buddha), Wat Traimit (Golden Buddha Temple) and Wat Pho (Reclining Buddha). [Meals: Breakfast]

### DAY 5. AMPHAWA FLOATING MARKET, RAILWAY MARKET, TEMPLES

Visit **Amphawa floating market**, an authentic market with mostly Thai clientele. It is the second most popular floating market after Damnoen Saduak. Followed by a visit to a one of a kind market that is located right on the tracks of an active railway line - **Maeklong market**. We round off today with other must-see temples in Bangkok.

[Meals: Breakfast]

#### DAY 6: ANCIENT CAPITAL OF SIAM-AYUTTHAYA

A day trip to Ayutthaya, the former capital of Siam (1350-1767). Part of the **Ayutthaya Historical Park** has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will visit Wat Phra Sri Sanphet (three sacred pagodas), large Buddha of Phra Mongkol Bophit, Wat Chai Wattanaram, Wat Chaimongkol, Bang Pa-In Royal Palace (Summer Palace).

[Meals: Breakfast]

#### **3 NIGHTS IN PHUKET**

#### DAY 7: BANGKOK-PHUKET

Fly south to **Phuket** today. The remainder of the day is free. The popular diving and snorkeling sites and the famed Ko Phi-Phi island are within distance for a day trip. Relax and explore the beautiful beaches, culture and local food for the remainder of the tour.

[Meals: Breakfast]

#### DAY 8: PHANG NGA BAY SEA CAVE

After breakfast, join the **Phang Nga Bay Sea Cave Tour.** This full-day excursion includes a bay cruise. Your guide takes you into stunning sea caves and secret lagoons on a kayak. [Meals: Breakfast]

#### DAY 9: PHUKET | FREE

Free day to relax, or explore the island on your own. [Meals: Breakfast]

#### DAY 10: PHUKET | END OF TOUR

After breakfast the tour ends. Hotel check-out and transfer to Phuket International Airport (HKT) for your flight home.

[Meals: Breakfast]

\*Hotel check-out time is generally around 11 am. If your flight departs in the evening or past midnight, we suggest you consider adding a post-tour hotel night during booking, to be comfortable and well rested before your flight home.

\*The duration and start time of excursions are subject to change without prior notice.