



^ Longtail boats, Thailand



TASTE OF THAILAND

11 days/10 nights Land only, Independent, Locally Guided



HIGHLIGHTS: A wonderful introduction – discover golden temples, lush tropical countryside and idyllic islands for a true taste of Thailand!

A TASTE OF THAILAND:

- Experience the floating markets in Bangkok
- Tour the famous Bridge over River Kwai
- Visit the most famous temples in Thailand
- See the physical border of the Golden Triangle
- Journey through the jungle on elephant back
- Cruise to Phang Nga Bay
- Relax on the stunning beaches of Phuket

DAY 1: ARRIVE BANGKOK

Welcome to Bangkok! On arrival you will be met and transferred by private car to your choice of hotel. Today is at leisure to explore this fascinating city. **Overnight: Bangkok, Novotel on Siam Square (Standard), Royal Orchid Sheraton (First Class) or Shangri-La Bangkok (Deluxe) for 3 nights.**

DAY 2: FLOATING MARKETS & RIVER KWAI

Travel through Bangkok's rural edges before boarding a long-tailed boat for a cruise to the famous floating markets. Continue on to the River Kwai and its infamous bridge. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the bridge, the JEATH War Museum and the Allied War Grave Cemetery. (L)

DAY 3: TEMPLES TOUR & DINNER CRUISE

Visit three of the most distinguished temples in Bangkok – The temples of the Golden Buddha, Reclining Buddha - the largest and oldest in Bangkok - and Marble Temple, built with white Italian marble. This evening, enjoy a variety of Thai cuisine and entertainment while cruising along the River of Kings. Pass the Temple of Dawn and Grand Palace. (D)

DAY 4: BANGKOK – CHIANG MAI

Transfer by private car to the airport for your flight to Chiang Mai, the gateway city to Thailand's lush northern region and its rustic hilltribe villages (flight not included). The remainder of the day is at leisure. **Overnight: Chiang Mai, Novotel Chiang Mai (Standard), Holiday Inn Chiang Mai (First Class) or The Chedi (Deluxe) for 3 nights.**

OPTIONAL: Journey overnight from Bangkok to Chiang Mai on the luxurious Eastern & Oriental Express. See opposite page for details.

DAY 5: CHIANG RAI & GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Visit the Golden Triangle where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar (Burma) and Laos meet. Travel through scenic countryside, stopping at the Hot Springs at Maekajan. From high on the hillside, there are magnificent views over the triangle made by the convergence of the Ruak and Mekong Rivers. Stop for lunch at the northern most border between Thailand and Myanmar (Burma) before continuing past Hill Tribe villages, whose cultures are virtually untouched by the modern world. Return to Chiang Mai this evening. (L)

DAY 6: HALF DAY CITY & TEMPLES TOUR

Visit the most sacred temple in the north, the 600 year old Wat Phra That Doi Suthep. Climb the 290 steps to the temple for panoramic views of the city. Continue on to visit Wat Suandok and Wat Chedi Luang, home to a chedi built in 1411.

DAY 7: CHIANG MAI – PHUKET

Today is at leisure before your transfer to the airport for your flight to Phuket (flight not included). Located off the southwest coast of Thailand, Phuket offers some of the finest beaches in the region. On arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel. **Overnight: Phuket, Novotel Phuket Resort (Standard), Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort (First Class) or Sheraton Grande Laguna (Deluxe) for 4 nights.**



^ Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, Chiang Mai



^ Explore the jungle on elephant back in Phuket

DAY 8: HALF DAY PHUKET SAFARI

Travel by 4WD through the Chalong highlands to Siam Safari Elephant Camp. Learn about these amazing creatures and the mahouts who take care of them. On elephant back, journey through the jungle, with views over Chalong Bay and Phi Phi Island. Later, see a Thai cooking demonstration, watch monkeys pick coconuts and ride in a buffalo-pulled cart. After lunch, enjoy an afternoon at leisure. (L)

DAY 9: PHANG NGA ECO TOUR

Cruise to Phang Nga Bay, better known for the location of James Bond Island. Pass spectacular limestone cliffs, mangroves and grotto caves. Enjoy lunch at a sea gypsy village, then stop at a secluded beach ideal for relaxing and swimming. (L)

DAY 10: PHUKET AT LEISURE

Enjoy a day at leisure to discover this incredible island. Perhaps visit the lively local markets to hunt for souvenirs, relax at one of the many beautiful beaches, or take a safari into the lush jungle.

DAY 11: DEPART PHUKET

Transfer to the airport by private car for your onward flight (flight not included).

EXTEND YOUR STAY IN THAILAND

This is a suggested itinerary to give you a "Taste of Thailand." Add additional nights to your vacation in Bangkok, Chiang Mai or Phuket and choose from our wide selection of additional sightseeing available. Want to see more of Thailand? How about adding a stay in Koh Samui, Krabi, or Phi Phi Island.



^ The elegant Eastern & Oriental Express



^ Tuk Tuk, Bangkok

SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS IN THAILAND

If you are interested in a small group tour of Thailand, we also offer a number of unique experiences to help you discover the very best Thailand has to offer such as:

- Northern Encounter **8 days**
- Treasures of Thailand **10 days**
- Trails of Thailand **11 days**
- Thailand Discovery **12 days**
- Khmer Kingdoms Explorer **16 days**

EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS

2 days/1 night Bangkok-Chiang Mai

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

Price from US\$1299 per person twin share

Discover rural Thailand—its rice fields, villages and water buffalo—in luxury on this legendary overnight rail journey. Relax in style aboard the elegant Eastern & Oriental Express — designed to recreate the ambience of the 1930's. Enjoy refined style and splendor, delicious cuisine and superb service.

There are 3 categories of sleeping compartments to choose from:

- Pullman Superior Cabin
- State Cabin
- Presidential Suite

Departs: September-April, select dates

OTHER LUXURY RAIL JOURNEYS AVAILABLE

2 nights **Chiang Mai – Bangkok** (departs select Wednesdays)

3 nights **Bangkok – Singapore** (departs select Sundays)

2 nights **Singapore – Bangkok** (departs select Thursdays)

Itineraries/departure dates subject to change. Special deposit and cancellation fees apply.

\$1199
FROM

PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE

TASTE OF THAILAND PRICE INCLUDES:

- 10 nights accommodation (choice of Standard, First Class or Deluxe)
- Round-trip private car transfers airport – hotel
- Floating Markets & Bridge on the River Kwai Tour
- Bangkok City & Temples Tour
- Dinner Cruise in Bangkok
- Half Day Phuket Safari Tour
- Full Day Phang Nga Tour
- Chiang Rai & Golden Triangle Tour
- Half Day City & Temples tour in Chiang Mai
- 4 lunches, 1 dinner

Price per person US\$	DOUBLE	SINGLE
Standard	\$1199	\$1915
First Class	\$1589	\$2669
Deluxe	\$2465	\$4415

Note: Prices are "from" and seasonal surcharges may apply. Room category is run of house unless otherwise specified – ask for details on higher room categories. Flights not included.

Tour Code: THAI

Departs
DAILY