



# Thailand Highlights

## Thailand Highlights

14 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

Combine the bustle of Bangkok, the history of Kanchanaburi and the picturesque Golden Triangle region with fascinating culture, beautiful palaces and ancient temples that Thailand is renowned for. Experience life with a local family, enjoy an elephant ride at the Chiang Dai Elephant camp and cruise the Mae Ping River on a bamboo boat.

### Fully Inclusive price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals (excluding drinks)
- Touring with Guides and entrance fees



## Your Tour Dossier

This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour.

If there are any particular challenges, from the length of time spent on your feet, the length of drives and flights, to the standard of remote accommodation; they will be explained here.

All passengers must read this document to ensure the itinerary is suitable for their interests and physical capabilities. This is not your final itinerary and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.

## Welcome to Wendy Wu Tours

Thailand continues to amaze, fascinate and thrill our passengers, many of whom have travelled to one country in Asia with us, then another, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as challenges of travelling in a country with a history, culture and attitude so unlike your own.

A typical day's sightseeing may include the bustle and noise of a city street, sights and smells of a local market and interacting with the locals. Travelling in Thailand requires patience and potential delays are to be expected due to standards of service. There is a low level of English spoken throughout Thailand, so your local guides or National Escort will be indispensable during your trip.

Almost everything will be different to what you may be used to. We have found that our passengers who embark with a sense of humour and adventure, who accept that things do not always go to plan, are those who find their experience most rewarding. It is essential that all passengers recognize the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences they may encounter in some areas.

## Thailand Highlights - Comfortable Paced Tour

These tours are not strenuous but do require higher levels of fitness. A typical tour may include periods of sightseeing on foot, climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats will be necessary.

Anyone with a reasonable level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you do have mobility difficulties, please contact us for our range of private tours which are more flexible and can better cater for individual needs.

N.B Please note that times and distances listed in the tour dossier are approximate.

### Days 1-2: UK/Bangkok

On Day 2, you will be met in the arrival hall at Bangkok's International airport by your Local Guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer 45mins to 1 hour depending on traffic conditions (35km) to your hotel.

### Day 3: Bangkok

Sightseeing in downtown Bangkok involves approx. 5 hours on foot over the whole day; broken up by 3 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon. You will visit Wat Pho, the Grand Palace, take a river ride down the Chao Phraya, visit the Talaat Flower Market and stroll through China Town. Watch your valuables in and around the market area.

### Day 4: Bangkok to Kanchanaburi

Rise early this morning rise to drive 1.5 hours to the unique Railway Track Market in Samut Songkram before travelling another 30 minutes to Damnoen Saduak floating market. You will travel by a motorised or paddle wooden boats through the canals. Sightseeing involves hopping on and off the boats, often on unsteady and sometimes slippery surfaces, without handrails or assistance, and up to 30 minutes on foot. Afterwards drive approx. 2.5hrs (100 km) to Wang Po where you will stop for lunch. Then take a 30 minute train ride through the Kwai Noi Gorge, to the 'Bridge Over the River Kwai' in Kanchanaburi. This is a local train without air conditioning and consists of wooden seats that are not pre

allocated. There is a bathroom on board but the facilities are not very clean. There are no dining facilities on-board.

At Kanchanaburi there is easy sightseeing at the Allies Cemetery and the War Museum; there are some graphic images here that some people may find upsetting. Afterwards drive 1 hour (60km) to your hotel and check-in.

### Day 5: Kanchanaburi to Bangkok

This morning visit the Hellfire Pass Museum, before an optional 3km hike down the Hellfire Pass itself, consisting of approx. 45 minutes on foot in humid conditions. You must have a good level of fitness to complete the hike in this time. On this trek there are uneven surfaces with narrow paths and stairs. Comfortable, non-slippery shoes are recommended for this day. If you do not wish to participate in this hike you can visit Saiyoke Noi waterfall. It is possible to take a swim near the falls and if you wish to do this, please remember to bring along your swimsuit and a towel. Changing rooms are available on site. Return to Bangkok.

### Day 6: Bangkok – Ayutthaya

Travel 100km (approx. 1.5 hours) to the sacred city of Ayutthaya. Today's sightseeing includes a comfortable paced tour around Ayutthaya's main sights (approx. 5 hours).

### Day 7: Ayutthaya to Chiang Rai

Fly to Chiang Rai (flight duration 1 hour 20 minutes). Upon arrival, drive for 1 hour (65km) to the Golden Triangle; the point where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar

meet. Take a boat ride for 1 hour on the Mekong River to visit Done Sao Island in Laos located in the middle of the Mae Khong River. You will travel by motorised, wooden long tail boats. Sightseeing involves hopping on and off the boats, often on unsteady and slippery surfaces, sometimes without handrails or assistance.

#### **Day 8: Chiang Rai**

Enjoy an excursion to Mae Salong where you will visit a tea plantation and take a walk through Ban Lorcha. Total travelling distance is 1.5 hours (80km). Sightseeing involves approx. 3 hours on foot over the whole day.

#### **Day 9: Chiang Rai to Mae Kampong (Home stay)**

Drive 30 minutes (13km) by minivan to the 'White Temple'. Sightseeing is easy and involves 30 minutes on foot. Continue to Mae Kampong stopping en route at a local market. The village is 1,300m above sea level and has a cool climate all year long. Please pack an overnight bag for your homestay. Your main luggage will be left in the minivan. You will be guests of a local family, staying in their traditional teak home. Each house accommodates 4 people and has shared bathroom facilities. You will more than likely sleep in your own room; however single passengers may have to share. Facilities here will be comfortable and clean but basic. The family will provide you with a mattress on the floor, clean linen, a blanket and mosquito net. All meals will be cooked by your host family.

#### **Day 10: Mae Kampong to Chiang Mai**

Rise early to give alms to the monks. Drive 1 hour (45km) to Chiang Mai after breakfast. At Wat Chedi Luang, there will be 30 minutes on foot. In the afternoon there is a leisurely walk through the market to view the local handicrafts.

#### **Day 11: Chiang Mai**

Visit the Chiang Dao Elephant Camp for a 1 hour elephant ride into the forest surrounding the camp before watching the elephants taking their morning bath. The elephant ride does not require any level of fitness, as it is quite leisurely. There will be 2 passengers riding on 1 elephant. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure in Chiang Mai. After dinner, wander through the colourful night bazaar. Be mindful of your belongings here.

#### **Day 12: Chiang Mai**

This morning partake in a cooking class, enjoying your creations for lunch before a visit to Baan Kingkaew Orphanage. After lunch drive 1 hour (18km) to Doi Suthep, the most famous landmark of Chiang Mai, where you have the option of climbing 300 even steps to the top. A panoramic view of the city can be seen at 3,500ft above sea level inside the temple.

#### **Days 13: Chiang Mai/UK**

Today you will be transferred from the hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your flight home via Bangkok. Depending on your chosen airline, you may arrive home later today or tomorrow.

#### **Land Only**

If you are travelling on a land only basis, then you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel in Bangkok on Day 2. On Day 13, you will checkout from your Chiang Mai hotel, and continue as per your own arrangements.

Please refer to the Wendy Wu Tours brochure and/or website for details on departure dates, prices, itineraries, inclusions and tour extensions available as well as full booking conditions.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Before You Leave**

**Itinerary Changes** - The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in Thailand are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your Local Guide or National Escort will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Roads in Thailand have generally been improved over recent years, but some road construction and/or weather conditions may still lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions:

**Visas** - No visa is required for Thailand for any stay up to 30 days.

**Vaccinations and Your Health** - We recommend that you contact either your local GP or a travel doctor for advice on vaccinations and travel health. [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk) is a comprehensive website that you may also find useful.

**Climate** - Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

Book now on **0844 499 3899** visit [www.wendywutours.co.uk](http://www.wendywutours.co.uk) or see your preferred travel agent.

**Insurance** - It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

**Suggested Packing List** - A complete list will be provided with deposit documentation.

**Luggage** - All clients are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

### **What to Expect on Tour**

**Development** - Although Thailand is developing quickly, it still lacks international standards of civil infrastructure and therefore tourist facilities. For example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade; concepts of personal responsibility are different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the UK. However, all of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense as well as refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guides.

**Traffic in Thailand**- Roads in Thailand have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in Thailand have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

**Seatbelts**- Please note that seatbelts are not compulsory by law in Thailand and therefore the local people largely choose not to wear them. For this reason some vehicles may not be fitted with seatbelts or they may be hidden underneath protective seat covers. It is recommended that where seatbelts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times when the vehicle is moving. If you have any concerns, please notify your National Escort or Local Guide.

**Group Size** – All our group tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum number of 8 travellers and a National Escort will accompany each group of over 10. The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is usually no more than 20 passengers.

**Accommodation** - Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities, for example the comfortable, clean but basic homestay in Northern Thailand which is included in this tour. Hotels are generally rated as local three star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Thailand. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

**Tippling** - As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in Thailand. For our passengers' convenience we ask for a compulsory amount to be paid at the beginning of our group tours to cover tipping for guides, drivers, restaurant staff etc. Approximate tipping amounts can be found in our brochure and/or website; however exact tipping amounts will be stated on your invoice.

**Exchanging Cash** - British Pounds can be easily exchanged in Thailand, provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

**Meals** - All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from the groups' arrival until the day of departure. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Thailand.

**Personal Expenses**- You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of £150 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

**Optional Extras** - Our tours are planned to be as fully inclusive as possible. However, from time-to-time your National Escort or Local Guide may suggest optional tours/sightseeing in addition to the standard sightseeing planned for that city. Such options are at an additional cost, with prices ranging from US\$20-US\$50 per person (payable in local currency). If you do not

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wish to take part in any optional extras, you will have the option of enjoying some free time at leisure or to return to the hotel.

### **After Your Booking**

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form and help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approx. 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, badge, lanyard, suggested packing list and a phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international etickets.

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