



## THAILAND

# ENCHANTING OF THE NORTH (TOUR CODE: 13808)

### STARTS AND ENDS

in Bangkok

### TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Feb 24 - 30 Jun 24

### EXPERIENCE

Cultural  
City Stays

### TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Embark on enchanting of the North Thailand: temples, tribes, elephants, and a thrilling Maeklong Railway Market experience.

## Highlights

- Experience the thrill of a train journey from Ban Na Kwang Station to the renowned **Maeklong Railway Market**, also known as the Siang Tai or Life-Risking Market.
- Admire the largest **Reclining Buddha** in the whole collection of Buddha images in Thailand.
- Be amazed with **Wat Phrathad Doi Suthep**, the most sacred temple in Northern Thailand, containing a holy relic of Lord Buddha.
- Discover the **Golden Triangle**, the area where the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar meet at the confluence of the Ruak and Mekong rivers.
- Learn about the rescued and orphaned elephants and their individual stories at **Elephant Nature Park**.

Embark on the enchanting Northern Thailand tour, starting in bustling Bangkok. Explore iconic temples, delve into the ancient wonders of Ayutthaya, and witness the unique lifestyle of the Akha tribes. Modernity meets tradition with visits to the Blue and White Temples. A scenic drive through northern Thailand unfolds cultural immersion, encounters with local tribes, and a heartwarming visit to the Kanta Elephant Sanctuary in Chiang Mai. Additionally, experience the extraordinary Maeklong Railway Market, where vendors skillfully retract their goods before an oncoming train. This tour promises a mosaic of experiences, from historical exploration to ethical encounters, encapsulating the essence of Northern Thailand's treasures.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

## INCLUSIONS

- 1 night in Sukhothai at Sukhothai Heritage - 4\*
- 3 Nights in Bangkok at Holiday Inn Silom - 4\*
- 2 Nights in Chiang Mai at Movenpick Suriwongse - 4\*
- 2 Nights in Chiang Rai at The Legend Chiang Rai - 4\*
- Admission fee included as per Itinerary
- Daily Breakfast
- Meals: 6 lunches as per Itinerary
- Return Private Transfer from Bangkok Airport to Hotel
- Tour accompanied by English Speaking Guide

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Arrive in Bangkok

Arrival at Bangkok International Airport will be met with a warm welcome by our local English-speaking representative. Enjoy the convenience of a private transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure, allowing you to relax and explore at your own pace.

Overnight stay in **Holiday Inn Silom** in a Deluxe Room.

### Day 2 Bangkok

Begin your day with a delightful breakfast served at your hotel. Following that, guide will pick you up for a visit to **Wat Tramitr**, also known as the **Temple of the Golden Buddha**. Marvel at the astonishing 3-meter-high golden Buddha, crafted in the exquisite "Sukhothai" style, weighing an impressive 5 ½ tons.

Next on the itinerary is **Wat Pho**, the renowned **Reclining Buddha Temple**. Here, you will encounter the largest Reclining Buddha in Thailand, housed in the oldest and largest temple in Bangkok. This temple not only serves as a religious site but is also recognized as the first public education center.

Our journey continues to the **Old Royal Palace**, the former residence of **Thai Kings**, constructed by King Rama I in 1782. The highlight of this historical site is the **Temple of the Emerald Buddha** (Wat Phra Kaew). Inside, you can marvel at the famous Buddha sculpture, a 48.3-centimeter masterpiece carved from a single piece of jade in emerald color. The image, believed to bring good luck, is adorned with three changing "garments" throughout the year. The royal palace complex also features the 9 Towers, the Pantheon of the Kings, golden domes, inspired capitals, exotic murals, and impressive ceramic decorations, all contributing to the magnificence of this iconic Bangkok landmark.

Feel free to explore additional points of interest within the palace, such as the **Throne Room**, the **Official Reception Hall**, and the **Coronation Hall** (closed on Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays, and special occasions). The afternoon is then left free for you to leisurely enjoy at your own pace.

Overnight stay in **Holiday Inn Silom** in a Deluxe Room.

Breakfast

Day **3**

## Maeklong Railway Market Damnoen Saduak Floating Market

Begin your day with a hotel-served breakfast, followed by an early departure from Bangkok. Experience the thrill of a train journey from Ban Na Kwang Station to the renowned **Maeklong Railway Market**, also known as the Siang Tai or Life-Risking Market. Positioned beside and atop the active train tracks, vendors skillfully retract their goods moments before the train arrives, creating a unique spectacle. After exploring the market, head to a pier for an exhilarating long-tailed speedboat ride through marshes to the iconic **Damnern Saduak Floating Market**. Witness colorful canoes laden with local produce. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and later, transfer back to your hotel.

Overnight stay in **Holiday Inn Silom** in a Deluxe Room.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day **4**

## Bangkok Ayutthaya Sukhothai

Commence your day with a delightful breakfast served at the hotel, followed by an early morning departure for a captivating journey to the **northern region of Thailand**. Our route takes us through the ancient capital of **Ayutthaya**, a significant historical site where we will explore some of its remarkable temples.

The kingdom of Ayutthaya, which thrived from 1351 to 1767, was founded by King Ramathibodi I (U Thong) in 1350. It absorbed Sukhothai in 1376, expanding over the next four centuries to become the nation of Siam. The kingdom of Ayutthaya was known for its friendly stance towards foreign trade, welcoming interactions with Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Persian, and later European traders, including the Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, British, and French. This openness allowed for the establishment of foreign populations outside the city walls. During the reign of King Narai (1656-1688), the court of Ayutthaya had strong diplomatic ties with the court of King Louis XIV of France, with the city being compared in size and wealth to Paris by French ambassadors.

Our exploration of Ayutthaya will focus on the three most significant temples: **Yai Chaimongkol, Wat Mahathat, and Phanan Choeng**. Following this enriching cultural experience, we will proceed to Sukhothai, where we will spend the night. Along the way, a sumptuous lunch is included at a local restaurant, offering you a taste of the regional cuisine.

Overnight stay in **Sukhothai Heritage** in a Superior Room.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day **5**

## Sukhothai Chiang Rai

Early in the morning, an optional activity awaits those interested: a visit near the hotel to partake in an offering to the monks, providing a firsthand experience of one of the most emblematic aspects of Thai culture. After this enriching cultural encounter, we'll return to your hotel for a hearty breakfast.

Following breakfast, our journey continues to the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sukhothai Historical Park**. This remarkable park attracts thousands of visitors annually who are captivated by its ancient Buddha figures, palace buildings, and temples. Easily explored by bike or on foot, the park offers a glimpse into the historical and cultural richness of Sukhothai. Within the park's walls, we'll visit the **Sukhothai Monument** to King Ramkhamhaeng, situated in the heart of the park, north of the palace.

Our next destination is the city of **Chiang Rai**, and we'll traverse the scenic northern landscape of the Lampang province. Enjoy lunch en-route and take a moment to appreciate the breathtaking surroundings on the shores of the picturesque **Phayao Lake**.

Upon arrival in Chiang Rai in the afternoon, you'll have some free time to relax, perhaps enjoy a refreshing swim in the hotel pool, or explore the vibrant atmosphere of the city's night market. This period of leisure allows you to unwind and immerse

yourself in the charm of Chiang Rai at your own pace.

Overnight stay in **The Legend Chiang Rai** in a Superior Studio.

Breakfast, Lunch

## Day 6 Chiang Rai

Start your day with a delicious breakfast served at the hotel. Today's adventure takes you to the **Akha tribes**, providing a unique opportunity to explore a community less frequented and influenced by tourism. Immerse yourself in their city, lifestyle, and organizational structure, gaining insights into their fascinating culture. The Akha tribes offer a chance to discover natural products such as mushrooms, green tea, and spices. Additionally, you'll have the opportunity to visit a green tea plantation, with the option to savor the prized tea.

Next on the itinerary is a visit to **Chiang Saen**, home to the famous "**Golden Triangle**" formed by the **Mekong River**, encompassing areas of Thailand, Laos, and Burma. This region was historically associated with opium trafficking, and you'll make a stop at the "**Opium Museum**" to gain a deeper understanding of this aspect of the Golden Triangle's history.

Continuing the journey, we'll head to **Mae Sai**, a border town with Burma. Here, you'll encounter a unique market showcasing Burmese products, and you'll witness the vibrant hustle and bustle of goods and people in this cross-border hub. Lunch will be provided en route.

After exploring Mae Sai and its significant cultural and commercial offerings, we'll make our way back to Chiang Rai, concluding an enriching and culturally immersive day.

Overnight stay in **The Legend Chiang Rai** in a Superior Studio.

Breakfast, Lunch

## Day 7 Chiang Rai Chiang Mai

Begin your day with a hearty breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, before making your way to Chiang Mai, you'll visit the Blue Temple, known as **Wat Rong Suea Ten**. This unique and visually striking temple is a modern creation, showcasing how contemporary artistry can seamlessly blend with traditional elements.

As you embark on the journey to Chiang Mai, make a stop at **Wat Rong Khun**, also known as the **White Temple**. Unlike many historic sites in Thailand, this temple is a testament to modernity and present-day creativity. It was constructed recently by the renowned Thai artist Mr. Chalermchai Kositpipat. The White Temple incorporates statues and figures inspired by Thai religious beliefs, particularly Buddhism. Note that some parts of the construction might still be in progress.

Continue the road trip, approximately four hours of travel that provides an opportunity to appreciate the scenic beauty of northern Thailand. Lunch, for logistical reasons, will be served at a local restaurant along the way.

Upon reaching Chiang Mai, you'll have the chance to visit the **Doi Suthep Temple**, one of the holiest temples in the city. Located on top of a hill in the northern part of Chiang Mai, this Thai-style temple houses holy relics of Buddha. Enjoy a panoramic view of the entire city from this elevated vantage point.

Conclude the day with an overnight stay at a hotel in Chiang Mai, surrounded by the rich cultural and historical ambiance of this vibrant city.

Overnight stay in **Movenpick Suriwongse** in a Classic Room.

Breakfast, Lunch

## Day 8 Chiang Mai

Start your day with a delightful breakfast served at the hotel. Following that, embark on a half-day tour to **Kanta Elephant Sanctuary**, a unique experience that promises visitors a chance to connect with elephants in their natural habitat. This

sanctuary not only allows you to spend quality time with these majestic creatures but also provides valuable insights into their history and behavior.

At Kanta Elephant Sanctuary, you'll have the opportunity to interact with friendly and happy elephants in a safe and sustainable environment. This experience aims to create cherished and lifelong memories as you witness these incredible animals thriving in their natural home. The sanctuary is committed to the well-being of the elephants and promotes ethical and responsible interactions, fostering a deeper appreciation for these magnificent creatures.

Overnight stay in **Movenpick Suriwongse** in a Classic Room.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day

9

## Depart Chiang Mai

Savor a delicious breakfast served at the hotel, and relish some free time until it's time to check out of your room. Following check-out, enjoy a smooth transfer to Chiang Mai airport, where you'll catch your flight back to your next destination.

Breakfast

## OPTIONAL EXTRAS

### One Way Flight From Chiang Mai to Bangkok

Price based on Bangkok Airways

*Please be advised that all airfares, taxes, service fees and other applicable charges are subject to change without prior notice and are not guaranteed until ticket(s) is/are issued.*

Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Holiday Inn Silom

Discover unparalleled comfort and convenience at Holiday Inn Bangkok Silom, nestled in the dynamic Jewelry District. Boasting 684 well-appointed rooms, it stands as the largest hotel in the area, offering exceptional service amidst the vibrant surroundings of shopping, entertainment, and trendy restaurants. With easy access to Sathorn, the hotel is a mere 45 minutes from the airport and in close proximity to leading hospitals such as BNH and Saint Louis. Explore iconic attractions like Asiatique The Riverfront, ICONSIAM, and Siam Paragon, or take a leisurely stroll along the Chao Phraya River to discover the cultural treasures of the Temple of Dawn and Grand Palace. Stay active with our health club, featuring an outdoor pool, tennis court, and fitness center.





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## Sukhothai Heritage Resort

The Sukhothai Heritage Resort is strategically situated between Sukhothai and Sri Satchanalai Historical Park, providing a gateway to Thailand's rich cultural heritage. Surrounded by picturesque rice fields, organic vegetable farms, lotus ponds, and temple sites, the resort offers a tranquil escape. Boasting 2 outdoor pools, an all-day dining outlet, and a lobby bar, guests can enjoy modern amenities in a serene setting. The vibrantly decorated, air-conditioned rooms feature Thai-style décor, cable TV, a mini-bar, and some rooms even include a spa bath and spacious seating area. With complimentary WiFi and ample parking, this resort is an ideal blend of comfort and cultural immersion. Indulge in authentic Thai cuisine at the outdoor restaurant or unwind with cocktails and beverages at the hotel's bar.



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## The Legend Chiang Rai

Immerse yourself in the ever-changing riverside panorama at The Legend Chiang Rai, a tranquil retreat just a short drive from the city center. Indulge in our restaurants, pool, herbal spa, and fitness center, or wander through tree-shaded pathways, lotus ponds, and flower-filled gardens. Your satisfaction is our priority, and in this enchanting corner of the world, near the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar, known as the "Golden Triangle," there's much to explore and experience.



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## Movenpick Suriwongse Hotel

Mövenpick Suriwong Chiang Mai offers a stylish and comfortable stay in the heart of Chiang Mai. Located just steps from the famous Night Bazaar and a short stroll to the river, the hotel provides a convenient base for exploring the city's vibrant attractions. With modern amenities, elegant accommodations, and a focus on hospitality, Mövenpick Suriwong Chiang Mai caters to both business and leisure travelers seeking a central and enjoyable experience in this cultural hub.



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Thai

## LOCAL CURRENCY

Thai Bhatt

## Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package i.e. mandatory festive dinners
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package