



Thailand w/ Optional Extension to Laos

Bangkok – Ayutthaya - Chang Rai – Chang Mai – Luang Prabang

December 4th – 14th or 17th 2022

11-14 Days

DAY 1, Sunday, December 4 – Fly to Thailand

Transfer via private coach from West Michigan to Chicago O’Hare International Airport to take your flight to Thailand!

Enjoy a comfortable flight on a full-service airline where you will have full meal service, complimentary alcoholic beverages, in-flight personal entertainment, and premium comfort.

Overnight: Airplane

DAY 2, Monday, December 5 – Arrive in Thailand

Arrive in Thailand in the evening. After clearing customs and retrieving baggage, transfer to your hotel to relax and unwind.

Overnight: Bangkok

DAY 3, Tuesday, December 6 – Explore Bangkok

This morning, you will join your local Thai tour guide who will take you on a walking tour of Bangkok, where you will explore and learn about sites such as:

- Wat Aket
- Golden Mount

- Baan Bat (also known as Monk's Bowl Village)
- Buddha Street

After, enjoy free time, and later visit the world-famous night market.

Overnight: Bangkok

DAY 4, Wednesday, December 7 – Free Day in Bangkok

Enjoy a free day at your own pace, or opt for one of our recommended optional excursions!

Optional Excursions:

- **Grand Palace, Wat Pho, & Canal Half Day Tour**

Visit the royal palace of Chakri kings and beautiful Wat Phra Kaew. You will visit the largest temple in Bangkok. It is famous for its gargantuan, majestic, reclining, golden Buddha at 151 feet long! After lunch, discover Thailand by boat through busy market canals the way the locals do.

- **10 Tastings Food Tour**

There is no better way to appreciate the culture of a new land than to enjoy a delicious food tour! Your local guide will take you to their favorite spots in the city for tasty treats. Come hungry, leave happy!

Overnight: Bangkok

DAY 5, Thursday, December 8 – Ayutthaya and Bang Pa-In Palace Historical Park

Founded in 1350, Ayutthaya was the luxurious capital of the Siamese Kingdom. It is characterized by many reliquary towers piercing the sky and splendid ancient monasteries surrounded by

rivers, canals, and moats.

The Bang Pa-In Palace was first used by the royal court as a summer retreat in the 17th century. It was first commissioned by King Prasart Thong. Many kings have added their mark to the Palace over the years with pavilions, gardens, and towers.

Overnight: Bangkok

DAY 6, Friday, December 9 – Fly to Chiang Rai

Transfer to the airport for your short domestic flight to the North of Thailand to beautiful Chiang Rai! Upon arriving, transfer to your beautiful hotel and later enjoy a guided tour of the highlights of Chiang Rai. You'll visit the ornate Wat Rong Khun, sometimes referred to as the "white temple" as well as the blue-hued, off-the-beaten-path Wat Rong Seur Ten. You'll also spend time at a tea plantation, visit a traditional hill tribe village, and see the town of Mae Sai on the border with Burma.

Overnight: Chiang Rai

DAY 7, Saturday, December 10 – Free Day in Chiang Rai

Enjoy a free day at your own pace or opt for one of our recommended optional excursions!

Optional Excursions:

- **Myanmar & Golden Triangle Day Tour**

This excursion to the Golden Triangle lets you cross the Thai border into Myanmar for a glimpse of local Burmese culture in the town of Tachileik, where you'll see a replica of Yangon's Shwedagon Pagoda. Enjoy a 'tuk tuk' ride, eat a local lunch, and visit a hill tribe village and bustling market before returning to northern Thailand to view the Hall of Opium.

- **Chiang Rai Hiking Day Tour**

See highlights of the jungle of Chiang Rai. From Phra Soep Hot Spring, hike to a bamboo forest and see many rice fields. Continue to Lahu, Akha village, Chinese village, and the second largest waterfall in Chiang Rai. Don't forget your swimsuit and towel! Enjoy a bamboo cooked lunch with handmade bamboo utensils. At the end of the day, relax in the mineral water of the hot spring. From there you got a transportation to your hotel.

Overnight: Chiang Rai

DAY 8, Sunday, December 11 – Chiang Mai

This morning, transfer via coach to Chiang Mai and settle into your beautiful hotel. Enjoy free time exploring the city on your own.

Optional Excursions:

- **Evening Street Food Tour**

Explore Chiang Mai's colorful night markets with a local on an evening food tour of the city on foot and by songthaew. Bring an appetite as you sample eight different market foods!

Overnight: Chiang Mai

DAY 9, Monday, December 12 – Chiang Mai

Enjoy a free day at your own pace or opt for one of our recommended optional excursions!

Optional Excursions:

- **At Bai Orchid Garden and Butterfly Farm**

The most coveted of ornamental plants is the delicate and

graceful orchid which represents love, luxury, beauty, and strength. Visit this vivid greenhouse and see thousands of butterflies fluttering from bloom to bloom.

- **Chiang Mai's Tribal Museum**

Learn about the identity and culture of northern Thailand's hill tribes. The museum plays an important role in preserving their history through traditional music, costumes, and handiworks.

- **Chiang Dao Kayaking, Caving, and Jungle Tour**

Discover the natural wonders of the Chiang Dao Valley on an action-packed full day adventure. Paddle along the Mae Ping river and look out for wild parakeets in the Chiang Dao Jungle. After a delicious Thai lunch at a riverside restaurant, you will explore the Buddhist shrines of the Chiang Dao Caves.

Overnight: Chiang Mai

DAY 10, Tuesday, December 13 – Free Day in Chang Mai

Chiang Mai is such a vibrant city full of amazing sights and smells. Feel free to discover the city at your own pace or opt for one of our amazing optional excursions.

Optional Excursions:

- **Dinner Theatre**

Enjoy a lavished family style meal served on large platters while seated at low tables. Admire musical performances and cultural dance by several Chiang Mai hill tribes expressing their heritage.

- **Elephant Sanctuary**

Visit with endangered Asian elephants for a full day tour. Elephant Park is an ethical sanctuary that rescues suffering

retired labor elephants. Spend time up close and volunteer to feed elephants! After lunch, watch these gentle giants splash in the river.

- **Cooking Class**

Join your local guide to visit the market to pick up your ingredients, then pick fresh vegetables on a local farm! Experience the fresh wind while cooking green curry or pad Thai in an open-air pavilion. Bring on that spice!

Overnight: Chiang Mai

Day 11, Wednesday, December 14 – Fly Home or Extension to Laos

Today, you will either head back home or journey on to the amazing neighboring country of Laos!

For those you that are going to Laos, it is an excellent place for nature lovers who are looking for adventure. It is often considered a hidden gem of Asia with breathtaking mountain vistas, extensive forests, and wild parades of elephants roaming the countryside!

Upon arrival in Laos, meet your local guide and visit the historic artisan market for handmade crafts by local tribes. Feel the tranquility of many sacred Buddhist Temples with spectacular mosaics and hand-carved motifs. See the luxury of the Royal Palace on this amazing 3-hour walking tour of the city.

Overnight: Luang Prabang

Day 12, Thursday, December 15 – Kuang Si Falls & Pak Ou Caves

On this tour, we will travel the exotic countryside to the national

park of Kuang Si Falls and Pak Ou Caves. You will take a slow boat ride down the Mekong River through the Pak Ou caves. These caves are a Buddhist religious site filled with golden Buddha sculptures. After lunch, you will be able to swim in the cool streams of the Kuang Si waterfalls.

Overnight: Luang Prabang

Day 13, Friday, December 16 – Free Day in Luang Prabang

Today, enjoy free time or an optional excursion!

Optional Excursions:

- **The Living Land Farm**

See the process of planting and harvesting rice in an organic rice paddy! Visit a family farm and learn about the process of planting and harvesting rice while surrounded by mountains in the Asian countryside. Join the team and get down and dirty ploughing the paddy with a water buffalo.

- **Bamboo Weaving Class**

Savor delicious steaming tea while learning the traditional practice of bamboo weaving on this eco-farm. You will create your own souvenir bamboo tea filter to take home.

Overnight: Luang Prabang

Day 14, Saturday, December 17 – Fly Home

**Times in this itinerary are here for reference purposes only and subject to change*