

Chiang Mai Jungle Adventure (9 days)

Small-group or Private Tour



Tour Facts

Trip Code – MATHJA
Class of Tour – Economy
Maximum group size – 8
Minimum group size – 1
Activity – Multi Activity: Trekking, Bamboo Rafting and Elephant Safari
Activity Level – Medium
Trek Grade – Easy
River Grade – I to II
Accommodation – 4 nights in hotels (tourist class), 2 nights in bamboo hut, 2 overnight train,
Transport – Minibus, 2nd class a/c sleeper train, pick-up truck
Meals – 6 Breakfasts (B), 3 Lunch (L) and 2 Dinners (D)

Basic Itinerary

Day	Activity
1	Arrive in Bangkok
2	Bangkok - Grand Palace tour, overnight train to Chiang Mai
3	Chiang Mai - free time
4	Jungle Adventure - local village
5	Jungle Adventure - trekking
6	Jungle Adventure - elephant ride and bamboo rafting
7	Chiang Mai - free time, then overnight train to Bangkok
8	Bangkok - free time
9	Bangkok - free time. Transfer to airport for flight home

Small Group, Private and Tailor-made Tours

Small Group Departures:

We have regular small group departures on this tour throughout the year. Departure dates are given on our website, and on request.

Private Departures:

You can also choose to do the tour privately, following the itinerary below, but on any other date. We add a small supplement for these departures. Please contact us first to check availability.

Tailor-made Tours:

Finally, this tour can also be used as a base for a private tailor-made itinerary, to be run on any dates. You can make adjustments as per your own requirements (for example, adding extra days, slightly shortening the tour, adding a scuba-diving course etc.).

Options:

On all of the above types of tour, we offer various different options, which can be added to the tour. These options are listed within the itinerary below, and then in detail at the end of this factsheet and also on our website.

Some options (normally that include a flight) should be pre-booked, but paid for in Bangkok.

Detailed Itinerary

Extra Days Option

Day 1 Arrive in Bangkok

You arrive at Bangkok airport where we greet you and transfer you to your hotel. Your Thailand Uncovered rep welcomes you and provides you with some useful tips for exploring the area.

Overnight at hotel in Bangkok

Day 2 Bangkok, Grand Palace tour, overnight train to Chiang Mai

We start today with a half day tour to the splendid Grand Palace complex and the Royal Temple of the Emerald Buddha where varied styles of Thai architecture are delicately woven together to enchant the viewer. The rest of the day is free for you to enjoy more sightseeing in Bangkok, or just relax. Our journey tonight is by second-class train to Chiang Mai in air-conditioned sleeping berths. Quite comfortable enough and with all the necessary amenities, so just relax and enjoy the journey.

Overnight on train to Chiang Mai (B)

Day 3 Chiang Mai, free time

Chiang Mai is a lively, bustling city and its charming character makes the province "a must" to visit. Today is free for you to relax or take a walking tour of the city, after you have settled into your cosy local hotel. Perhaps walk through the old city to see charming temples, the Warorot Market or visit a meditation temple. Late afternoon is time for our group trekking orientation so that you will be prepared and know what to expect while on your jungle adventure.

Overnight at hotel in Chiang Mai

Day 4 Jungle Adventure, hill-tribe village

In the morning we leave Chiang Mai by pick-up truck, heading north to the Huay Nam Dang National Park. Stopping en route we visit the local market in Mae Malai and then continue to Pong Dued hot spring for lunch. After lunch we will trek through the tropical forests for about 2 hours (2 km) and an opportunity to learn about flora and fauna, and the secrets of jungle herbs. Our overnight stop will be at the Karen village of Baan Pong Noi or Ban Pa Klauy. Here there is time to swim, explore the village, learn how to do bamboo weaving, trap making, etc. and perhaps give the guide a hand in preparing the evening meal. After enjoying your first dinner in the jungle the evening is free to talk with the villagers about the legends of the hill tribes. Tonight you share small bamboo huts in the Karen village.

Overnight in a bamboo hut (B L D)

Day 5 Jungle Adventure - trekking

Today after breakfast we take a walk for 2 ½ - 3 hours passing through the rice and vegetable fields of the villagers and learn their methods of cultivation. We then explore the surrounding forests to study the local environment and learn how to survive in the forest. After lunch we will trek for about another 2 hours to the Karen village of Baan Mae Ma Nai. Here there is time to enjoy fishing in the Mae tang River using local instruments and to learn the technique of constructing a bamboo raft. Afterwards there will be more time for another refreshing swim and to help with the dinner preparation. The total walking distance for today is about 8 km.

Overnight in a bamboo hut (B L D)

Day 6 Jungle Adventure - elephant ride & bamboo rafting

After an early breakfast we watch the elephants taking their daily bath in the stream, then take an elephant-back ride through the unspoiled natural forest for approximately 1-1½ hrs, 3 Km. We then return to the camp to enjoy an exciting, 1-

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2 hour (20-25 km. in total), bamboo rafting trip down Mae Tang River. We stop en route at a Lahu village, then continue rafting for about 1½-2 hours to a Shan village for lunch. After lunch we return to Chiang Mai by pick-up truck and back to your hotel.

Overnight at hotel in Chiang Mai (B L)

Day 7 Chiang Mai, train to Bangkok

Today is a free day but there are still lots of options for you to choose from in this exciting city. Your leader will give you good information on what to do, such as Thai cooking, a visit to Doi Suthep or relaxing with a traditional Thai massage. No activities this day are included in the tour price. In the evening we board the overnight train to Bangkok staying in comfortable second-class air-conditioned sleeping berths.

Overnight on train to Bangkok (B)

Day 8 Bangkok – Free Day

Upon arrival back in Bangkok we transfer you to your hotel, where the rest of your day is free to do some last minute shopping or a little more sightseeing. You can finish the tour and fly home today if required (flights must leave after midday).

Overnight at hotel in Bangkok

Day 9 Tour ends

Your day is free until we transfer you to the airport in time for your flight home.(B)

Extra Days Option

Options

- Booking and Paying for Options:

All options should ideally be booked in advance, when booking the tour. You can also add extra options to your tour, after you have made your booking, and during the tour itself, subject to availability at the time.

To comply with ATOL regulations, some options including internal flights where we don't issue the tickets here in the UK, are to be booked in advance, but purchased from, and paid for to, our agent in Bangkok. (IATA License No. 35/3/00440) Credit Cards, traveller's cheques or cash are accepted in Bangkok for these payments at the start of the tour. A receipt will be provided in Bangkok to show the flight & payment details.

Extra Days

These are available on request in Bangkok before and after the tour starts and finishes. If you'd like to add extra days into the time in Chiang Mai, then please request a tailor-made tour.

The price includes a night in the hotel, breakfast, all taxes and transfers.

Book in advance. Pay in advance

Single Room Supplement

If you want to guarantee yourself a single room throughout the tour, then we need to add a single supplement charge.

If you are a single traveller joining one of our Economy level group tours, then if you do not select the single supplement, you may share a twin or triple room with another traveller/s (same sex) in the group.

Note: Couples will always be given a private double room where possible and triple/family rooms are available on request.

Included in the Price of the Tour

- All accommodation (see below)
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Rucksack, water canteen and lifejacket whilst trekking/rafting
- Trekking park entrance fee
- Entrance fees
- All transfers, including 24-hour airport transfer service
- Tours & Guides as indicated in the itinerary
- All transport

Not Included in the Price of the Tour

- International airfares
- Visa costs
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips, and other personal expenses
- Sleeping bag
- Travel insurance – please see the policies available on our website
- Any other items not mentioned above

Accommodation

Our Economy tours use good quality budget/tourist class hotels in which all rooms have either air-conditioning or fans. Accommodation whilst trekking is in traditional bamboo huts, and a mat and sheet is provided. Please note that for the trekking you may wish to bring a light sleeping bag or blanket with you.

Hotels used on this tour:

Bangkok – various
Chiang Mai – The Park Hotel (a/c room)

At certain times of the year or where circumstances dictate we may need to use different hotels from the ones listed above. In this event alternative accommodation will always be of a similar standard. Please see our website for more current details of the hotels that would be used on the tour.

Transport

This tour aims at bringing you as close to the real Thailand as possible and not cocooning you from it. To this end we use public transport wherever we feel that it meets our high standards, this includes 2nd class overnight trains with air conditioned berths, local buses and local ferries. We also use private transport, i.e. pick-up trucks and minibuses where necessary.

Jungle Treks, Elephant Rides & Rafting

Jungle Treks

In general the trekking on this tour will not be too hard for anybody who is reasonably physically fit. The precise itinerary of the trekking may have to be changed from time to time to take into account the weather and local conditions, but the same concept is well maintained. While trekking we sleep in villagers' huts. As the huts consist of a single all-purpose room, in which the villagers live and sleep, you will sleep on the covered balcony or a bamboo bed inside the hut. A mat, sheet and a blanket will be provided but for additional comfort you may wish to bring a sleeping bag as in mountain areas it can be quite cool at night, especially in December/January.

Additional equipment such as a rucksack, water canteen, life-jacket is available from our office in Chiang Mai.

As you are required to carry your own kit, unnecessary items should be avoided (a private porter can be provided upon request for an additional charge).

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Simple meals will be prepared by the porter by a stream, in a hill-tribe village or at some other suitable spot, during the day, and in one of the village huts in the evening & for breakfast.

Your guide has long experience of the country through which you will travel and is very familiar with the tribes' people and their customs. His advice on these subjects should be followed.

Elephant rides

Elephant-back riding is great fun and should not be missed. However, please bear in mind that we do not encourage you to ride the elephant on its neck. Though some might feel it is challenging it can also be dangerous. Clients wanting to do so must take full responsibility themselves as we cannot guarantee their safety and will accept no responsibility in the event of an accident.

Rafting

The rafts are of the basic bamboo-pole variety and can carry approximately 7-8 persons. The rafting can take from 4 to 6 hours depending on the season, and the water level & current. Along some parts of the river there are a lot of snags (dead trees, big rocks, broken wood, etc.), which can sometimes be dangerous. A life jacket (provided) is essential as it will not only keep you afloat, if by chance you should fall off the raft, but also help to prevent injury if hitting any of these snags. During the rainy season (or the dry season following heavy rainfall) the current will be quite strong and the guide will decide if the rafting should proceed or not. His advice on this matter should be strictly followed.

Transfers

The tour includes both your airport arrival and departure transfers (24-hour service), and all other transfers.

After customs and immigration formalities you will be met by our representative, and after introductions, they will take you straight to your hotel (full details will be provided after booking).

Tour Leaders/Guides

For this tour we provide fully trained, local English-speaking Thai guides to act as your tour leader.

Our local reps in all the towns and cities en-route are also at your service.

To help support the local people and economy, and because we know it works best for you, our policy at Thailand Uncovered is to use only local guides and tour leaders for this tour. Please check our website for further details.

Entrance Fees

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. Camera and video fees may be applied at some of the sites, and these are not included in the price.

Dates & Prices

We have regular departures on this tour throughout the year. Our small group departure dates are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet (available on request).

We can also run the tour privately for you on any other dates for a small supplement, or customise it to make a tailor-made tour to fit your personal requirements.

Please contact our knowledgeable sales staff for more help on creating the right tour for you.

Tipping

While an accepted part of the culture and customs in Thailand, tipping is always optional, and any amounts paid should reflect excellent service.

It is normal and accepted for people to tip differently, and you should not feel under any pressure to tip any particular amount.

We are often asked for advice on common amounts however, and suggest that up to 10% of the tour price would be a suitable budget for this tour.

Health

For up to the minute health information & vaccination requirements for Thailand we recommend that you contact your GP or a travel clinic (1st Contact have a travel clinic with free advice tel. 0800 0393073). General vaccination recommendations for Thailand include Tetanus, Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Polio and Typhoid.

Note: The trekking area in this tour is not considered to be a malarial risk (the only endemic area is close to the border with Myanmar), and there have been no reported cases of malaria among tourist.

Visas

British, European, and many other nationalities do not require a visa for travel to Thailand for stays of 30 days or less. If you are staying longer then visas are required. For further information on your visa requirements, please contact us or checkout the visa pages on our website.

Country Guide

For an in-depth overview of Thailand, please checkout the country guide pages on our website.



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