



Enchanting Thailand

7 Nights

May - November 2019



Summary

Northern Thailand floats on a carpet of enchantment, harmoniously blending fascinating culture, astounding nature, and absolutely unique experiences. Intimate and authentic, this North Thailand adventure is handcrafted for the adventurous couple, offering a compelling romantic luxury to compliment the omnipresent charm. A spa in the jungle, private temple ceremonies, elegant river journeys, trekking in postcard perfect wilderness...this is the land of smiles at its most atmospheric.

Wild Discovery Advantages

- A proven expertise in organizing successful holidays
- Experienced and knowledgeable staff
- High quality service & strong commitment to customer satisfaction
- Permanent assistance from Wild Discovery Head Office at any moment
- Attention to details that make the difference

Overview

Dates: May - November 2019

Interest:: honeymooners

Level of Comfort: 4/5

Minimum # of passengers: 2

Maximum # of passengers: none

Information about the destination

- **Currency:** Thai Baht
- **Language:** Thai and English
- **Dialing Code:** 66
- **Recommended vaccines:** Malaria risk exists in the forested and hilly, areas Thailand, mainly towards the international borders. There is no risk in cities and tourists areas.
- **Banks & currency exchange:** Money exchange counters are very easy to find in the visitor areas of Bangkok

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Day 1: Chiang Rai

Upon arrival in Chiang Rai, meet greet and transfer to hotel

Soak up the panorama. Jungle clad mountains dominate the landscape, a thousand shades of green mingling amidst rugged rock and gaping valleys. Smiling locals wave hello and the quaint town blends into its natural surroundings.

Today enables you to explore Chiang Rai at your own pace. The guide and vehicle are at your disposal and the guide will be full of suggestions depending on your mood. Chiang Rai sparkles with authentic culture; the town is imbued with a deep sense of spirituality and ancient relics.

Explore vivid local markets, weave into the mountains for stunning vistas, and experience the resplendent brilliance of Wat Rongkhun.

Admire the unique kanok architecture of Wat Rong Khun and learn about the region's history at the Hill Tribe Museum.

Day 2: The Golden Triangle and an Exclusive Luxury Camp on the Riverside

As the sun rises, the mist clears; the Chiang Rai landscape is filled with an evocative sense of mystique.

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and then weave into the green valleys towards the Golden Triangle.

Decorous scents guide you through the Doi Tung Royal Flower Garden and then the road winds towards the Mekong River. Look across the jungle valley. Over there is Myanmar. To the right is Laos. And before you is Chiang Saen, the last remains of an ancient kingdom along the irrefutable river. Relics are lost in the sand, the temple ruins standing in a wonderful sense of decay. Yet some pagodas stand revitalized and restored, proud monuments that recreate the feeling of a once powerful city. Wander through these remains and absorb the 500 year old narrative from your guide, then stop at the Opium Museum for an insightful look at the region's battle with addiction and illegal crops.

The Mekong River is flanked by beauty, the jungle extending from the shore and the mountains dominating the horizon. Board a long-tail boat and gently head into the wilderness, the charms of local life ever-present along the riverside. Your destination is a Tented Camp, an exclusive retreat in the heart of untamed nature. Settle into your secluded tent, the canvas exterior ensuring nature's resonant soundtrack accompanies your every moment. Now it's time to really relax...in one of the world's only open-air jungle spas. An indulgent 90 minute treatment is included for both of you.

Day 3: Thrilling Elephant Mahout Experience and Sailing along the Mekong

Elephants wake you from slumber, their trumpeted calls floating through the trees. Birds sing from the treetops and the call of monkeys adds another voice to nature's soundtrack. Head into the deep jungle and meet your elephant, the two-ton friendly giant greeting you with a wave of the trunk. Elephant trekking is popular all over Northern Thailand but today's mahout experience offers a more intimate involvement with nature. A mahout is an "elephant driver," a trained expert who can control an elephant's movements with verbal commands. After a lesson in elephant language you sit on the pachyderm's neck, this aerial vantage point offering fresh impressions of the jungle. Guide your elephant through the trees and towards its bathing space. Stay on board as the water spurts out of trunks and you use thick brushes to clean their immense frames.

Return to the camp and enjoy a leisurely lunch, the calming charms of the riverside providing the complimentary visuals. This afternoon you take another traditional form of transport, a private long-tail boat cruising along the Mekong River. Admire the local life by the riverside; men fish from tiny wooden canoes, women wash clothes in the shallows, and waving children seem to come at increasingly regular intervals. Cruise along to the exact point where three countries meet and then explore a local market, the baritone shouts of traders floating between stalls of fresh produce. There's even time for a temple visit before you return to the Tented Camp.

Every romantic escape should include some memorable candlelit dinners. Tonight you walk into a jungle clearing and sit down amidst the trees, elephant silhouettes wandering in the distance and soft moonlight accompanying the bliss. A sumptuous five-course dinner is served as nature's organic chorus accompanies this private piece of paradise.

Day 4: An Intimate Journey to Chiang Mai

Wake again to the sounds of nature and savor the last moments in this tranquil tented camp.

After a short long-tail boat journey you rejoin your guide for the spectacular journey to Chiang Mai. Meander through the mountains, each corner bringing fresh vistas and ongoing beauty. There's half a dozen stops en route, each concealed from the road and lost amongst the trees. Wander through a forest clearing to the Mae Kong hot spring, visit local factories specializing in Thai silk, and admire the soothing elegance of temples hidden in the greenery. There's always picturesque brilliance along the riverside, so stop to relish the vistas and enjoy lunch.

Just on the other side of Chiang Mai is the Padong Long Neck Hill Tribe village. Dazzling brass rings cover women's necks here, the gleaming metal contrasting colorful pieces of cotton that dangle from hair and arms. Girls as young as five wear the rings, this unique practice maintaining a millennia-old tribal tradition. Explore this small village and wander past the quaint wooden houses, ubiquitous children's smiles accompanying almost every turn. Then keep wandering to the nearby Mae Tang River where a cute bamboo raft floats you downstream to the waiting vehicle. You're lost in the wilderness, cruising through untamed jungle at a pace that befits the rural beauty of Northern Thailand.

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You'll arrive in Chiang Mai by midafternoon. It might be the last stop for the day, a romantic room the perfect place to relax for the evening. But your guide and vehicle are always waiting outside should you wish to explore Chiang Mai in the evening.

Day 5: Serene Enchantment in Chiang Mai

Early risers are rewarded in Chiang Mai, your 6 am wake-up call bringing the city's most evocative sight. Red-robed monks wander barefoot in the dawn light, a procession of spirituality moving through the streets. Participate in this daily alms giving ceremony by placing food into the monks' bowls, then continue the spiritual slant by climbing the 309 steps of the Golden Naga staircase. You're now standing above Chaing Mai at Wat Doi Suthep, one of Thailand's most famous temples. Admire the fabulous murals and pagodas, feel the enchantment of incense filled temple rooms, and listen to the monks' soft chanting as it floats on the mountain breeze.

The tour continues at Wat Umong, a mysterious temple hidden beneath moss and trees, standing in an indelible sense of decay. Slowly wander beneath the greenery and through the transcendent hallways, holding hands as you follow the incense smell to a darkened temple room. A monk waits for you, softly reciting mantras and conducting a private blessing ceremony. This unique and rare experience brings the architectural relic to life, epitomizing the blend between aesthetic exterior and hypnotic interior. Return to hotel for lunch and a leisurely afternoon.

Then an evening discovery tour unveils further enchantment; join the monks in their nightly chanting, stroll through the vivid stalls of the Waroros Market, and then dine at a fabulous colonial house, where gastronomic brilliance merges with graceful surroundings.

Day 6: Fabulous Thai Organic Cooking Course

Thai cuisine will already have made a rich impression during this trip and the secrets to its sumptuousness are revealed with today's organic cooking course. Like always, this is an exclusive experience and the two of you will be the only participants; so there's no interrupting the private reverie. Start in a local market where fresh ingredients and fragrant spices are bought. Continue to the chef's own herb garden and snip the most fragrant leaves to add panache to your culinary masterpiece. It's a hands-on cooking lesson, the renowned local chef starting with how to make your own curry paste. After you've had fun in the kitchen, settle down to your own creations and allow them to melt in your mouth.

The rest of the day is at your leisure and your guide will be full of suggestions depending on your mood.

Relax in the stunning surroundings of your hotel or explore further cultural relics in this fascinating city.

Day 7: A Day of Natural Wonder in Doi Inthanon

Northern Thailand's landscape has revealed its intimate beauty, the last six days filled with journeys into the wilderness and through the jungle. For your final day it's time to appreciate the scale of the landscape. Drive to Doi Inthanon and it's just a short hike to the nation's highest peak. Look left and green valleys effortlessly roll beyond the horizon.

Look right and it's the same view. In fact, spin around with the camera and take in the 360 degrees of natural splendor in all its vivacious glory. Dozens of hiking trails head off through the park and the two of you can decide which is best suited. Whether it's 20 minutes or two hours, expect every corner to bring more astonishing vistas and jungle clad valleys.

While the itinerary is extremely flexible in Doi Inthanon National Park, there are a few enigmatic highlights that are difficult to miss. Nestled between the trees is the King Inthavitchayanont Stupa, a captivatingly unique monument lost in the jungle. Wander to the Vachiratarm Waterfall, an idyllic spot for a picnic in the wilderness. As you descend from the mountains and wind back to Chiang Mai, there's time to stop at the Doi Suthep, a hilltop temple and one of Northern Thailand's most famous. The evening is free so soak up the enchantment of Northern Thailand for one final night; your guide is always full of ideas for indulging in personal romantic revelry.

Day 8: Farewell to the Land of Smiles

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

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Prices Include

Round trip ticket to Chiang Rai return from Chiang Mai (economy class)
Round trip transfers: airport — hotel — airport
7-night accommodation at hotels
Meals: daily breakfast, 3 lunches & 1 dinner
Private elephant mahout experience
Private long-tailed boat cruise to the Golden Triangle
An indulgent 90 minute treatment
Guided journey to Chiang Mai with hill tribe visit and bamboo rafting
Guided morning Chiang Mai tour
Private blessing ceremony in Wat Umong temple
Evening discovery tour
Private organic Thai cooking class
Excursion to Doi Inthanont National Park
Travel insurance
Assistance of our representative in Thailand

Prices Exclude

Airport taxes
Fuel surcharge
Visa fees
All other expenses
DIP surcharge \$ 5/ticket

Starting price per person in US\$

Hotel	Double
3* Hotels	3565
4* Hotels	4006
5* Hotels	9691

- Prices may change without prior notice and subject to availability at time of booking

Flight Schedule

From	To	Flight No	Departure	Arrival
Beirut	Dubai	EK 954	19:25	01:15
Dubai	Bangkok	EK 384	03:05	12:05
Bangkok	Chiang Rai	EK 4492	13:20	14:45
Chiang Mai	Bangkok	PG 222	06:55	08:15
Bangkok	Dubai	EK 375	09:30	13:15
Dubai	Beirut	EK 953	15:10	17:40

Payment facilities available with CFC

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