

# Northern Thailand – Kingdom of Lanna

## Tour Code NT

**14 – 28 November 2023**

For travellers seeking extraordinary experiences, Thailand can be very rewarding, especially the north. Northern Thailand, formerly the Lanna Kingdom that once covered part of Yunnan, Laos, and what is now Myanmar, offers a great variety; religion, culture, arts, cuisines, flora and fauna. For enthusiasts of historic and sacred architecture, this spiritual journey through the region also enables a close appreciation of the Buddhist way of life.. The principle cities of Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai have many ancient, Lanna-style, Buddhist temples. Of the legacies of the former Lanna Kingdom founded more than 750 years ago, many are maintained by local Buddhist devotees and function as places of worship today.

*Royal Palace, Bangkok*  
© Patrick Syder.



### ITINERARY

#### Day 1/Day 2 Fly direct to Bangkok

Afternoon departure from UK to Bangkok direct with British Airways. Arriving at Bangkok International the following morning. Transfer to our joining hotel with immediate rooms. Rest of day at leisure. Welcome dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

#### Day 3 Bangkok City Discovery

We start with an early morning visit to the famed Wat Po to observe the serene chanting ritual of the monks, an incredible start to the day. We wander around the temple ground for sightseeing and admiring the huge reclining Buddha before continuing to the majestic Royal Grand Palace, Thailand's most important landmark to marvel at the mysterious Emerald Buddha, the most revered Buddha image in Thailand. Later, take a visit the Chinatown with walk through colorful old streets and shopping areas. Experience the hustle atmosphere and enjoy sightseeing, shopping in local market. Also, visit to one of the Chinese temple. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

#### Day 4 Bangkok Floating market & railway market, drive to Kanchanaburi

This morning we take a relaxing paddle boat ride through the labyrinth of canals offering the chance to see the old part of the Damnoen Saduak floating market and local lifestyle along the canal side with the chance to stroll through the market on foot. We continue to Kanchanaburi for a visit to the World War II memorial and finally to Wang Pho for a short train ride along the river. Overnight in Kanchanaburi with dinner (B,D)

#### Day 5 Drive to Ayutthaya

We visit the beautiful seven-tiered waterfall located in Erawan National Park before our departure for the ancient city of Ayutthaya, arriving in the late afternoon. It is known as the 'Venice of the East' because it is found along the Chao Phraya, the tributaries that surround the province of Ayutthaya River and was founded in 1350 by King Uthong when the Thai had to migrate to the South under pressure from their neighbours to the North. Two nights in Ayutthaya with dinner (B,D)

#### Day 6 In Ayutthaya

A short drive to Bang Pa-In where we visit the Summer Palace, built during the Ayutthaya era. The palace showcases an eclectic collection of buildings that blend European, Khmer, Thai and Chinese architectural styles. It's the favourite summer palace of the King. We explore the ancient city including the temple highlights of the city from Wat Yai Chaimongkol, Wat Mahathat (with a Buddha face emerging from a tree), and strolling through a local market en route to Wat Phra Srisanphet. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

#### Day 7 Sukhothai

Thailand's ancient capital and considered to be the birthplace of Thai culture and "Thainess", Sukhothai is rich with historical history and intrigue. Upon arrival in Sukhothai in the afternoon, we will visit the Historical Park, which contains almost 200 ruined Chedis (stupas) in remarkable condition. Two nights in Sukhothai with dinner (B,D)

#### Day 8 Sukhothai and Nat On Chan Village

A relaxed morning at leisure. This afternoon we visit Nat On Chan village; a fine example of a sustainable tourism village where traditional handicrafts are made, offering the visitor a range of activities including cooking and

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weaving as well as shopping! For those who prefer a quieter more natural appreciation of the area it is possible to hire a bike to enjoy the landscape views and visit a fruit farm. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

#### **Day 9 Visit Si Satchanalai Historical Park. Drive to Chiang Mai**

Si Satchanalai Historical Park is a historic park in the Si Satchanalai district of Sukhothai province in northern Thailand. The park covers the ruins of Si Satchanalai and Chaliang. Si Satchanalai, which literally means "City of good people", was founded in 1250 as the second center of the Kingdom of Sukhothai and a residence of the crown prince in the 13th and 14th centuries. We continue to Chiang Mai, the capital of the North. We enjoy a traditional Khantoke dinner tonight accompanied by Lanna music and dance. Three nights in Chiang Mai (B,D)

#### **Day 10 Visit Chang Mai environs. PM Cookery Class**

We start the day at Wat Phra That Doi Suthep which is considered the holiest temple in Chiang Mai, stunningly positioned 1000m above the surrounding landscape. We will have a stop to visit the Meo Hill tribes people and villages known for paper umbrella making and silk weaving before the opportunity to try one's hand at cooking a traditional Northern Thai food dinner at a farm cooking school where all the ingredients are sourced (B,D)

#### **Day 11 Chiang Mai temple tour - Meditation & Monk Chat At Wat Suan Dok**

We visit the temples of Old Chiang Mai using Thai rickshaws (samlor) that date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the most revered temple; *Wat Phra Sing* currently houses *Phra Chao Thong Tip*, the most venerated Buddha statue in northern Thailand. Our afternoon is one of spiritual exploration at Wat Suan Dok; where we learn the art of meditation to relax and purify the mind and soul! We meet with a Thai Buddhist monk to learn about his life and the country's spiritual beliefs providing a perfect forum for connecting with Thailand's culture. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

#### **Day 12 Chiang Rai Temple tour**

This morning we journey to Chiang Rai and spend the day visiting three beautiful and much revered temples; Emerald Buddha Temple (Phra Kaew Temple), the Blue Temple (Rong Sued Ten Temple) and the White Temple (Rong Khun Temple). Our final stop is at the Black House; an extraordinary museum of eerie sculptures, woodcrafts and art installations housed across 32 buildings, most of which are Lanna-style pavilions made from black wood. We check in at our hotel for two nights. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

#### **Day 13 The Golden Triangle and the mountainous north**

We venture north of Chiang Rai to visit Chiang Saen, an ancient city located on the Mekong and to a museum to learn about how Opium played a role in Thailand's past. In the afternoon we take a boat trip to discover the beautiful Golden Triangle region where the borders of Thailand, Burma and Laos converge. We celebrate a farewell dinner at an upmarket Chiang Rai restaurant (B,D)

#### **Day 14 Visit Karen Hill tribe. Overnight train to Bangkok**

We drive to Mae Kok river to take a short journey by long tail boat to visit a Karen Hill tribe village where the tribesmen raise and tame elephants for jungle work. In the afternoon we drive to Chiang Mai for our overnight train to Bangkok (B,L)

#### **Day 15 Fly to London**

Early morning transfer from Bangkok train station to the international airport for our morning flight with British Airways direct to London Heathrow (B)

**Cost £2295.00** per person in a twin room (excludes international flights) Single supplement charge £695.00



Tea plantation, Chiang Rai region

#### **Price includes –**

- ▶ Escorted by Patrick Syder FRGS
- ▶ Accompanied throughout by specialist Thai guides
- ▶ All transportation - private a/c minibus, boat trip and overnight train (1<sup>st</sup> class) Chiang Mai to Bangkok
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Quality four star hotel/boutique hotels
- ▶ Half board basis with dinners at traditional restaurants
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

PLEASE NOTE – personal travel insurance, visa fees, alcoholic drinks, guide and driver gratuities, British Airways international flights are not included in the land tour cost (available through Flight Centre UK) (Included meals denoted by B Breakfast, L Lunch, D Dinner)