

Thailand for Adventure!

Tiger Temple to Pet a Tiger! Elephant Park to give an elephant a bath and more.

Thailand adventure tour that includes playing with a tiger, riding and bathing an elephant, exploring mountain villages and a visit to the mysterious and only recently opened nation of Myanmar (Burma).

Thailand 9 day itinerary December 2 – 10, 2014

Cost per person USD 2495.00

Day 1 December 2: Today is our tour group meeting up day. We suggest arriving before 4:00 PM if you want to join the group for dinner at 6:30 p.m. We stay at a nice canal side hotel near the airport. We will arrange for a driver to meet you and transfer you to the Great Residence Hotel, near to the airport. (D)

Day #2 December 3: This morning we meet for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. We then leave Bangkok at 8:00 A.M. to transfer to Kanchanaburi, about 2 1/2 hours ride from Bangkok in an air conditioned van. We check into our accommodations at the Aurora Resort on the shore of the River Kwai and near the bridge of that name, made famous by the movie "The Bridge over the River Kwai". In the afternoon we visit the Tiger Temple for our first day with the Tigers. This is one of the highlights of the tour. Imagine a dozen or more tigers, just sitting, prowling around or laying on the ground as you walk amongst them. Sit and hold a full grown tiger's head in your lap. Feel the vibrations course through your body as he purrs when you stroke his forehead. (B & D)

Day #3 December 4: Today you will have a choice. Relax and sleep in this morning or join in the optional "Tiger Morning Experience". For this special event we must leave the hotel by 6:00 a.m. so we realize this isn't an event everyone will want to join, thus it is offered as an option. Here are the details of the morning program.

You will leave early for the Temple. There you will make a small morning offering to the monks in a morning ritual like that carried out in every village, town and city in Thailand each morning. Then join the monks at the Temple platform as they complete their morning prayers and other morning rituals. While eating you will likely have tigers of various ages playing around you on the platform. Normally there are some young tigers either roaming freely around the Temple or tethered to one of the roof support columns. Later after breakfast you may be allowed to assist as the tigers are walked from their enclosures to the pond where they have a chance to play. Probably you will bathe a tiger and engage in tiger play in the Tiger Life Enrichment compound.

At 9:30 a.m. those who did not go to the morning tiger program will meet our driver and travel about 30 minutes to meet up with the other group members. Then all will travel

together to the Elephant World Camp for a fun afternoon that will include riding elephants bareback. Elephants love to play in the water and part of the planned activity at the camp is to ride into the river with the elephants. Lunch is included with the program today.

In the late afternoon we visit the Bridge over the River Kwai and have time for some shopping in the market adjacent to the bridge. Walk across the Bridge, see the old train that is still in operation today. No Thailand adventure would be complete without some travel in a Songthaew, so our transportation today will be via songthaew, not by air conditioned van. The songthaew is a pick up truck taxi that is the standard form of taxi transport outside of the few large cities of Thailand. Song thaew means two rows and that is what there are, two rows of seating in the back of the covered pick up truck. (B,L)

Day #4: The group leaves Kanchanaburi and travels north by private air conditioned van to the historical capital of Thailand, Sukhothai. Travel today takes you through some interesting rural areas. You visit the historical Sukhothai capital city sites and take a relaxing bicycle ride through the historic area as time and your energy permit. (B)

Day #5: After breakfast our van will make its way through some mountains and rice fields as we travel to Chiang Mai. We stay in a centrally located hotel in Chiang Mai and near the largest night market in Thailand. Today you will visit the Borsan umbrella factory where the local artists will paint wonderful Thai scenes on various objects such as your camera or a laptop lid. Later we visit a local teak wood factory where you will see some very skilled carvers. In the evening visit the largest night market in Thailand. (B & D)

Day #6: : We leave the big city behind and travel into the mountains of North Thailand. We visit a Karen Long Neck village today. You may feel as if you are part of a National Geographic video as you talk with these mountain tribal people who have some very strange customs. Along the way today there are other interesting local sights such as the Doi Poi Temple on the Hill and a mountain village that was once a major poppy growing area, but through positive intervention by the Kings' opium eradication plan has been transformed to a robust, but benign economy. Here photos may be taken in traditional local dress. Our accommodations tonight at the Marisa Resort are near to the Chiang Dao Cave Temple which we visit in the morning. (B)

Day #7: This morning we visit the Chiang Dao cave and temple, a most interesting stop. From there we continue on to approach the Golden Triangle region in the most north-westerly corner of Thailand. This afternoon we cross the border on foot into Myanmar at Tha kea lek (Tachilek) town. Once across the border into Thailand we go by tuk tuk (a 3 wheeled motorcycle taxi) to the Thai Yai Temple. We will stay tonight on the Thailand side of the border, not in Myanmar. You will have time this afternoon to explore the town of Tachilek. Myanmar has long been a land of mystery. This is as true today as 50 or 100 years ago. (B)

Day #8: Today after leaving the Myanmar border, we visit the storied Golden Triangle region of Thailand, crossing by boat to a small island that is part of Laos. This will be a

most interesting day as you have now added three countries to your vacation places visited. Long known as the center of opium smuggling, the Golden Triangle region is only slightly tamed today. We stay tonight at the suites only special Rasa Boutique Hotel. (B)

Day #9: Departure day. We leave Chiang Rai on an early morning flight to Bangkok. Then group members will be on their own to make their various connecting flights back home. We plan to take a flight from Chiang Rai that will arrive in Bangkok at about 11:30 AM. It is always better to get an air ticket that allows changes, even if there is a small change fee involved. Should our flight to Bangkok be delayed or cancelled, you want to have the flexibility to change your air ticket back home. (B)

9 Day Thailand Tour

Highlights:

- ** Tiger encounter - bathe a young tiger, sit with a large tiger's head in your lap, maybe bottle feed a tiger cub.
- ** Elephant adventure - real life fun as you ride an elephant bareback and join it for a swim and bath in the river.
- ** Karen long neck mountain tribe visit
- ** Temples including Chiang Dao cave temple deep inside a mountainside.
- ** shopping the largest night market in Thailand
- ** A visit to the infamous Golden Triangle region of northwest Thailand.
- ** An overnight visit to the reclusive nation of Myanmar (Burma).
- ** A short visit across the border by boat to Laos.
- ** Boat ride on the Mekong River .

Departure dates:

December 2 - 10, 2014

Minimum group size 4

Maximum group size 10

(any number for special family or group events)

Price: Nine day Thailand tour: \$2495 US

*No Single Supplement

* Optional early Morning at the Tiger Temple \$275

What's included in the tour package:

- * Ground transportation in private A/C van from start to finish of tour as detailed in the itinerary. Some transport may occur in other vehicles as part of the adventure tour sight seeing, such as tuk tuk and song theuw rides for short distances.
- * Boat ride on Mekong River at Golden Triangle
- * Some meals - 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch & 5 dinners
- * English speaking Thai guide

- * Admissions to sightseeing and other venues as detailed in the itinerary.
- * Hotel in mid-range nice and comfortable rooms.

What's not included:

- * Air transportation both international and domestic internal flights.
- * Meals and drinks except as noted in itinerary.
- * Those special activities noted as optional in the tour itinerary.
- * visa and border crossing fees
- * Tips for guide and driver
- * Travel insurance (STRONGLY recommended)
- * Personal expenses such as laundry, phone etc.

What do you need to budget:

- * Most people will spend \$200 to \$300 for food, drinks and tips.
- * Tiger Temple Morning Program fee \$250 payable upon signing of final forms if you choose to do this encounter.
- * Visa and border crossing fees at Myanmar about \$25 pay at the border.

Special notes:

- * single supplement NONE

* We reserve the absolute right to change or modify the itinerary at any time if a reason exists that we feel will lessen or change the intended experience negatively. Examples of what might cause a change are severe inclement weather, earthquake, changes in animal behaviors or some type of localized civil action.