

9 DAY EXPLORER PACKAGE

THAILAND TUK TUK ADVENTURE

\$1999

PER
PERSON
TWIN
SHARE

CHIANG MAI • MAE HONG SON • LOD CAVE • PAI

THE OFFER

Thailand is everything we love about South East Asia rolled into one. It has the spectacular natural landscapes, the bustling and exotic cities, a tantalising culinary scene, and a devoted sense of spirituality that almost calls you to seek out the path of enlightenment. It also has tuk tuks!

These quirky, colourful, sputtering three-wheeled motorised taxis have a cult-like following all of their own. And if you're not yet a fan, you soon will be. This nine day tour of northern Thailand - travelling by tuk tuk - is the ultimate way to experience their charm and enjoy a taste of 'the real Thailand'. Departing from the blissfully laid-back city of Chiang Mai, you'll get to visit remote hill tribe communities, travel along winding mountain passes with incredible views in all directions, explore the foothills of Doi Inthanon mountain on foot, treat your tastebuds to flavoursome Thai street food and so much more! With an experienced tuk tuk driver and maximum of just two passengers per vehicle, this is an intimate and unforgettable adventure at a seriously amazing price.

9 DAY TOUR

\$1999

**Trip
aDeal**
Est. 2011

Offer available for a limited time or until sold out. TRIP A DEAL PTY LTD: 50149240433

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THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Chang Mai

Today you will be met at Chiang Mai International Airport by a tour representative and transferred to the lovely RatiLanna Riverside Spa Resort in Chiang Mai town.

Depending on your flight arrival time you'll have time to enjoy the riverside pool, take advantage of the superb spa at the hotel or head out and explore the local surroundings. In the evening there will be a private riverside welcome dinner – fantastic location and even better Northern Thai food – and we'll run through all the details for the Tuk Tuk Adventure ahead.

The Rati Lanna Riverside resort is a lovely Northern Thai hotel sitting right on the banks of the Ping River, which runs through Chiang Mai city. With large rooms decked out in Northern Thai style, great facilities, a superb large pool right by the river and a highly regarded spa this is the perfect start and end to your adventure.

Please note: Check in time at the hotel is 2:00pm. For those arriving earlier we can arrange for your bags to be stored and use of the hotel facilities to shower, swim etc.

Overnight: RatiLanna Riverside Spa Resort

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2 Tuk Tuks, Remote Temples, Elephants & Beautiful Hill Tribe Villages

The adventure starts for real after breakfast! You will transfer by minivan to the Tuk Tuk HQ in a small village about an hour from the city, where you will meet your very own tuk tuk (and driver) and get straight on the road.

A note about the Tuk Tuks:

The fleet of Tuk Tuks were designed and built specially for these adventures. While looking like a classic Bangkok Tuk Tuk they are slightly longer (giving great leg room), slightly higher (giving great views), have super comfortable back seats, a sunroof (!), BluTooth speakers (for your favourite road trip music) and ice boxes for your water or even a few cool beers along the way! After winding through tiny villages our first stop is a remote mountain side Temple where we'll 'make merit' for the journey ahead with the local monks – a lovely way to start the journey.

You will then head North along the valley to a small, superbly run elephant home. With only a handful of elephants this home provides a very personal and special insight into the life of elephants in Northern Thailand and gives you a wonderful opportunity to observe and learn about these fantastic animals. Lunch is at the elephant home after which you'll be able to walk through the countryside with the elephants to the local river where they take their daily bath with their mahouts.

Once the elephants decide they are clean we're back into the Tuk Tuks heading high into the mountains. The road twists and turns through spectacular scenery and we pass through lots of fascinating Karen Hill Tribe villages. As with every day in the Tuk Tuks there are plenty of stops along the way (we never travel for more than around 60 minutes without stopping) to enjoy local mountain coffee, explore villages, take in the views and chat with your fellow travellers.

By mid / late afternoon we'll arrive at our overnight stop at the picturesque Karen Hill Tribe village of Ban Mae

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THE ITINERARY

Klang Luang. Nestled half way up Doi Inthanon (Thailand's highest mountain) the village overlooks rice terraces and is surrounded by forests and mountains. Whilst the accommodation here is relatively 'simple' the location and the wonderful warmth of the local people make this a truly special place to stay. In the evening we'll enjoy a traditional Thai BBQ overlooking the rice fields – dinners don't get much better than this.

Tuk Tuk Driving Time: approx. 4 hours

Distance Covered: 85km

Overnight: Ban Mae Klang Luang

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

Day 3 Hiking in the Foothills of Doi Inthanon

The Tuk Tuks have a well-earned rest today as you head to explore the foothills of Doi Inthanon on foot! Starting with a quick transfer by truck you then walk up into the forest led by a superb local guide (who knows everything about every tree and plant – and can spot a snake from miles away!) and then hike past stunning waterfalls, rivers and towering trees.

There are a number of spots where you can cool off with a dip in the pools under the waterfalls and you'll have a packed lunch (wrapped in leaves) in a clearing in the forest. The hike ends with a walk back down into the village where you stayed last night and there's the chance to enjoy the freshest coffee around at a local old-style mountain coffee shop.

Please note: the trek / hike is suitable for all. The total distance is around 5-6km, we take it at a gentle pace and after the initial uphill section, the majority of the hike is flat or downhill. This evening it's time for another superb feast – again overlooking the rice terraces – and perhaps one or two

well deserved cold beers!

Tuk Tuk Driving Time: N/A

Overnight: Ban Mae Klang Luang

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

Day 4 Wild Mountain Back Roads to Mae Hong Son

We're back on the road today for a truly spectacular drive – keep your camera handy at all times! First we wind our way down the side of Doi Inthanon along a stunning winding road and then head North towards our overnight destination of Mae Hong Son. However, this being an adventure we don't take the 'main road', instead we take the rarely travelled back road winding up and over three 'mountain ranges' and taking us deep into the heart of Hill Tribe country.

We'll stop for lunch at a small but delicious roadside restaurant and also have plenty of stops for coffee and to simply go 'wow' as you travel along roads that few Thai's, let alone overseas visitors are lucky enough to explore. By late afternoon you'll arrive at the magnificent Fern Resort, your base for the next two nights. 'Fern' is fast becoming a legend amongst Tuk Tuk Club travellers and with its lovely bungalows set around rice paddies, surrounded by forest and, in our view, the best sunset bar in the world (now with added infinity pool). The perfect place to rest up after a stunning day!

Fern Resort is a well-established rural resort located in the heart of the forest and surrounded by rice fields and our favourite hotel in the whole of Northern Thailand. With lovely large bungalows dotted around rice fields, two swimming pools, a brilliant sunset bar and views of the forest and mountains all around it really doesn't get much better than this. And if it was good enough for Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

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THE ITINERARY

then it's good enough for us!

Tuk Tuk Driving Time: approx. 6.5 hours

Distance Covered: approx. 195 km

Overnight: Fern Resort, Mae Hong Son

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

Day 5 A Day To Relax Or Explore Mae Hong Son & Awesome Street Food

There's some free time for you today to relax and enjoy the lovely surroundings of the resort or to head out and explore, it's up to you. The resort has a couple of lovely swimming pools to enjoy, there's some fantastic hiking through the forest directly behind the resort or your guide team can help you arrange a river trip to a remote Karen Hill Tribe village. It's totally up to you!

In the late afternoon we'll head out together to explore Wat Doi Kong Mu before we head out again to explore Wat Doi Kong Mu, the most important temple in the region with superb views over the town, as the sun starts going down. Then head into the centre of town to enjoy a street-food extravaganza. Our guide team will of course make sure you get the very best food on sale and then we'll sit down and eat by the town centre lake watching the world go by – about as Thai as it's possible to get!

Tuk Tuk Driving Time: N/A

Distance Covered: N/A

Overnight: Fern Resort, Mae Hong Son

Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner

Day 6 Mountain Roads to Pai

Pai, one of the most famous of all mountain towns in Thailand, is your destination today but before you get there you need to negotiate several hundred bends and some of the steepest roads on the trip. Take in the spectacular views, fascinating communities and even the occasional tasty mountain coffee along the way.

You'll stop for lunch at Lod Caves and explore the huge cave system with a local guide – don't worry, you're not scrabbling through tiny potholes, rather enjoying a raft along the river than runs through the caves. By late afternoon you'll drop down into the valley where Pai sits but not before a couple of awesome pit stops – try your hand at the Hill Tribe 'swing', we dare you! – and arrive at your laid back resort for the next couple of nights.

Time to freshen up and either enjoy a relaxing evening surrounded by rice fields and mountains (and another relaxing infinity pool) and then enjoy a great Thai feast at the resort.

Phu Pai Art Resort is located around 5km outside the town of Pai and set amongst rice fields and on the edge of a small village, this resort is the perfect location to unwind. All the rooms are individual villa style and a short walk to the restaurant and swimming pool. Laid back Northern Thailand doesn't get much better.

Tuk Tuk Driving Time: approx. 4-5 hours

Distance Covered: approx. 120km

Overnight: Phu Pai Art Resort, Pai

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

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THE ITINERARY

Day 7 Enjoy Pai & the Surrounding Area

A day to do as you please. Enjoy the resort or head out to explore Pai and the surrounding area. The resort has a lovely infinity pool overlooking the rice fields and mountains – a great place to relax and rest – or why not get a traditional Thai massage to get your body ready for the final drive tomorrow. Alternatively, you can head out to explore the cafes and markets of Pai town and soak up the atmosphere of this friendly mountain town.

In the evening we'll head into Pai town for another street food feast, sampling lots of Northern Thai delicacies.

Tuk Tuk Driving Time: N/A

Distance Covered: N/A

Overnight: Phu Pai Art Resort, Pai

Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner

Day 8 The Final Leg

Today's drive is simply stunning - we've saved the best for last for sure. Leaving Pai behind you're immediately deep into the countryside heading along tiny mountain roads on our journey back South to Mae Wang. It's 180 km of pure magic – random hot springs (and boiled eggs if you'd like), Hill Tribe villages with teak Temples, giant Buddha heads appearing out of the forest and even Thailand's very own Rio de Janeiro (we'll leave that one for you to see on the day!), today takes you off the map not just 'off the beaten track'.

Enjoy the ride and make the most of your last day of adventure in your trusty bright orange Tuk Tuk!

You'll arrive back at the Tuk Tuk HQ by late afternoon, say goodbye to your trusty Tuk Tuk and we'll then transfer by minivan back to the lovely RatiLanna Riverside Spa Resort for a farewell riverside feast to celebrate a superb authentic adventure.

Tuk Tuk Driving Time: approx. 6.5 hours

Distance Covered: 180 km

Overnight: RatiLanna Riverside Spa Resort

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

Day 9 Farewell

Your adventure comes to an end today with transfers to Chiang Mai International Airport in good time to catch whatever flight you are on.

Meals included: Breakfast

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TOUR INCLUSIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

Experience a taste of 'real Thailand' by tuk tuk

Journey through the mountainous north of Thailand

Go off the beaten track with experienced local drivers

Discover remote waterfalls, hill tribes, caves and more

Stay in Chiang Mai, dotted with historic temples

Witness elephants enjoying their daily bath at a river at an elephant home

Visit the picturesque Karen hill tribe village of Ban Mae Klang Luang

Explore the foothills of Doi Inthanon, Thailand's highest mountain, by foot

Travel along winding back roads to Mae Hong Son, Thailand's most mountainous province

Explore the vast Lod Caves system by bamboo raft with a local guide

Enjoy a day at leisure in Pai, known for its nearby gorges and hot springs

Cool off under waterfalls and in idyllic mountain pools

Sample delicious street food and mountain coffee

ACCOMMODATION

8 nights quality accommodation incl. 2 nights at 5-star RatiLanna Riverside Spa Resort

DINING

8 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 8 dinners

Water throughout the adventure

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Experienced tuk tuk driver

Meet and greet at airport

TRANSPORT

Comfortable modern tuk tuks – max 2 travellers per tuk tuk

TRANSFERS

Return airport transfers

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Please note: All information provided in this brochure is subject to both change and availability. Prior to purchase please check the current deal for up-to-date information. If you have already purchased this deal, the terms and conditions on your Purchase Confirmation apply and take precedence over the information in this brochure.*

BOOKING INFORMATION

After purchase, you will receive a receipt and a Purchase Confirmation, directing you to an online Passenger Information Form. The Passenger Information Form must be completed within 72 hours of purchase.

Any special requests, preferences and optional extras MUST be clearly stated in your Passenger Information Form. Any change requested after submitting your Passenger Information Form cannot be guaranteed, is strictly subject to availability and will incur surcharges as outlined in the Schedule of Fees below.

On purchasing this Travel Offer you are bound by the General Terms and Conditions, in addition to the specific terms and conditions outlined in this Important Information.

Please note: all additional charges are payable direct to your Travel Consultant in AUD (unless otherwise stated).

OFFER ESSENTIALS

Travel offer is valid for travel on selected dates until the 18th of November 2022.

This travel offer is priced for one person based on twin share.

Single Traveller Supplement

For solo travellers a mandatory single supplement of \$749 applies.

Departure Dates

Please see the TripADeal website for current departure dates.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation Used

5 Star (self-rated)

Chiang Mai: Rati Lanna Riverside Resort

3 Star (self-rated)

Mae Hong Song: Fern Resort

Pai: Phu Pai Art Resort

Unrated

Doi Inthanon: Mae Klang Luang views homestay with en-suite facilities

Please note: Accommodation/rooms offered are based on a lead-in room type, and are subject to availability based on seasonality. Properties will be confirmed, no later than two weeks prior to travel.

Extra Nights

Not available

Maximum Room Capacity

2 people

Child Policy

- No child discounts. Full price applies for all children travelling with their parents.

- Valid for Children 5 years old and over.

Please note: Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18 years old and over to travel. No unaccompanied minors allowed.

Triple Share

Not available

Bedding Configuration

Twin or double bedding (subject to availability).

Adjoining / Interconnecting Rooms

Not available

GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

Minimum group size 8, maximum group size 12 per tour.

Please note: Tuk Tuks have a maximum capacity of 2 travellers

EXCLUSIONS

- Visa fees and requirements (A tourist visa is not required if travelling on an Australian passport)

- Return international flights

- Meals/beverages not stated in the itinerary

- Recommended gratuities/tipping:

-- Guide: 200THB per person, per day

-- Driver: 100THB per person, per day

- Optional activities/tours

- Personal expenses

- Travel insurance (Mandatory)

Please note: A comprehensive travel Insurance policy must be organised BEFORE all details can be finalised.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Clothing

- We recommend travellers bring trainers (or similar) for trekking & exploring and flip flops/sandals for relaxing in your Tuk Tuk. For driving days a comfortable pair of shorts and a t-shirt/long sleeved t-shirt (that you don't mind getting dirty and grimy!) will do.

- If you're travelling between November and February please don't forget some warm clothes for the evenings – it can get quite chilly from time to time at night in the mountains and a warm jumper / fleece is well worth packing.

- The trek doesn't require walking boots although it paths can be muddy and slippery when it's rained (usually July – October but we can get the odd storm at any time of the year).

- Don't forget your swimmers! – there are great pools at 3 of our overnight locations

Spending Money

- This is always difficult to gauge but only need to budget for 1 lunch on the trip and then for any drinks (other than water) and snacks along the way.

- Whilst everyone's needs are different we suggest that you budget around 2-3,000 THB for the whole trip – this should be enough for even the thirstiest adventurer!

- ATM's / Cash Machines are available along most of the route with the exception of days 2 and 3.

TOUR GUIDE VS. TOUR LEADER

Tour Guide

Often locals with intimate knowledge of an area, its culture, and history. Their role entails providing commentary, routing the tour, and seeing that people have a good time. They are a licensed, qualified expert who supplies specific information on history, art, architecture and culture of the city/village/attraction in which he or she is guiding the tour. The guide meets the group at the



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

required place and leaves the group at the end of the tour, they do not travel with the group.

Tour Leader

An experienced person tasked with ensuring the smooth operation of tours, as well as providing practical support to passengers throughout the whole trip. Their role primarily includes assisting with accommodation, transportation between locations, and communication with tour guides in each stop. A tour leader may provide general guidance around a city or village, and offer information on the place visited on the bus, however they are not required to have specific knowledge on art, architecture, or history. They are not allowed to provide a guided tour or commentary of a city/village/attraction once there and if caught doing so, can be fined.

Please note: Tour leaders/guides are not a standard inclusion in all travel offers. Tour leaders/guides will only be made available when particularly required to enhance the experience of the destination featured.

CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

The ideal time to visit Chiang Mai is between October and April. Weather during this period is mostly cool and pleasant with light breeze, which is also why it's peak tourist season. Another good time to visit Chiang Mai is during the festivals when the city is at its vibrant best.

TUK TUK TOUR

Meals

21 meals are included in the tour, for all other meals; lunches and dinners the tour leader (when available) will offer assistance with reservations, suggestions and directions to local restaurants. It is your responsibility to notify TripADeal of any dietary requests/requirements. Please note; we will do our best to meet your requests/requirements, however cannot guarantee that we will always be able to.

Luggage

You will be responsible for all your personal belongings whilst on the tour. With regards to luggage, you must carry your own luggage from the coach to the hotel room and back to the coach. The driver will assist with the uploading and off-loading of the luggage from

the coach.

OTHER

Fitness Level Required / Mobility

Our vehicles are not equipped with wheelchair access, so unfortunately our tours are currently not suitable for wheelchair users and those less mobile.

Please note: a general level of fitness will be required. If you have any concerns please consult your healthcare provider prior to purchase/travel.

Gratuities / Tipping

Gratuities (tips) are not included in the tour price for services of the tour leader (when available) and driver throughout the tour. The recommended tip is 200THB per person per day for the guide and 100THB per person per day for the drivers.

Sightseeing

Please note: In the event entrance to a site is affected by changes in operating hours or public holiday closures, your itinerary where possible, will be adjusted or an similar activity will be offered in its place (subject to availability).

Shopping

Shopping overseas can be a daunting and confusing experience, especially when there is a language barrier. Please be very cautious when foreign currencies and prices are involved. If paying by credit card, please pay close attention to the amount you are being charged and keep all of your receipts.

Do not make any purchases you are not comfortable with or feel pressured into. If you are uncertain or need assistance with the language barrier, please seek assistance from your Tour Guide/Leader.

Please refer to our Terms and Conditions in regards to shopping for further information.

VISAS

A tourist visa is not required in Thailand for stays of up to 30 days on an Australian passport.

Please note: Passengers who are not Australian citizens must check with the respective consulate or visa agency to determine what their visa requirements are and what personal identification is required. It is also important to note, some areas of employment such as journalism, government authorities and charity

organisations may have additional restrictions in applying for Visas. This may in turn affect the type of application required.

INSURANCE

We are proud to offer a range of travel insurance products - please ask your Travel Consultant for more information.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

Voluntary Changes

This includes booking changes requested by you, including but not limited to those changes requiring an airline ticket, date/accommodation changes or a Purchase Confirmation reissue.

· Changes - \$100.00 per booking + any additional charges applied by the airline/accommodation/other travel provider.

Supplier Fees

In the event the Travel Offer you have purchased is unable to proceed, and/or a travel Supplier is unable to fulfil the Travel Offer due to external circumstances (Limitation of Liability e.g. a Force Majeure event), there may be a fee or amount of money that is withheld by our Suppliers and is unrecoverable. This may be due to non-refundable airline tickets, cancellation penalties with cruise cabins or unrecoverable payments with our land/accommodation partners. TripADeal has committed to these costs as your Agent and will endeavour to recover all funds committed and/or paid for your Travel Offer, but this may not be possible in all circumstances. If refunds are not available from Suppliers, we will endeavour to obtain a travel credit on the best terms available and communicate these outcomes to you. In the event, TripADeal is unable to obtain a refund or travel service credit, or part thereof, this cost is passed on to the customer as a Supplier Fee. This fee is not revenue-raising and is paid to or withheld by our suppliers when recovering payments.

Name Changes Due To Passenger Error

· If the incorrect name has been advised to TripADeal, charges of \$100 per booking + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider

