



SHORT ESCAPE: THAILAND

Embark on a mystical journey to Thailand, as skilled guides immerse you in the cultural charms of Bangkok and the rich heritage of the northern kingdoms.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Asia, Thailand



8 days from AU\$7,895 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Embark on an adventure through Thailand's ancient history on this journey from buzzing Bangkok to the rural north. Delve into a bygone era, led by local experts as you stand in awe of architectural marvels, experience remote village life, and discover a creative legacy steeped in tradition. Taste true Thailand at every turn, venturing from thriving cities to idyllic havens experiencing the people, culture and cuisine that make this country so enchanting.

Journey Highlights

- Discover Thailand's regal heritage under the expert tutelage of a member of The Siam Society
- Revel in the untold stories of the old Lanna kingdom while exploring historical Chiang Mai
- Experience the extraordinary charm of Asian elephants with a stay at Four Seasons Tented Camp
- Savour flavourful local cuisine on guided market explorations and village visits



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Bangkok, Thailand

Arrive into Thailand's vibrant capital of Bangkok to a warm A&K welcome and be privately transferred to your hotel. Bustling with an eclectic mix of ornate temples and towering skyscrapers, today the city is yours to explore at leisure. Both traditional and contemporary, the city is a hive of colourful food and flower markets, buzzing streets and intriguing waterways complemented by a dynamic dining scene waiting for you to explore.

COMO Metropolitan Bangkok

Day 2: Bangkok

Today starts with a discovery of Thailand's regal heritage and unique cultural charms, exploring the city with a charismatic scholar and member of The Siam Society. Glean fascinating insights about the city's elite society from your local guide as they take you through the city's iconic landmarks. Enjoy lunch with captivating views of the Temple of Dawn before hopping a private river boat to explore the Bangkok Noi Canal floating museum of ceremonial royal barges, discovering the vital history of these iconic vessels.

COMO Metropolitan Bangkok | Meals: BL

Day 3: Design Your Day, Bangkok

Today, explore more of Bangkok your way, with your choice of one of these Design Your Day activities:

- Discover a colourful side to Bangkok on a walking tour of a thriving creative neighbourhood on the Chao Phraya River. Meet local artists and discover the cultural and architectural heritage before a delicious lunch in a former jam factory turned chic restaurant.
- Be immersed in life along Bangkok's waterways, traveling by private water limousine as you take in the stories behind some of the city's longest-standing traditional neighbourhoods. Visit the "Artist's House," a centuries-old stilted residence heralded for vintage arts and crafts.
- Dive into the world of Siamese treasured textiles and explore unseen parts of the city with a charismatic scholar of Southeast Asian antiques. Discover the nation's artistic heritage and enjoy exclusive viewings of some of the kingdom's most unique historical treasures.

COMO Metropolitan Bangkok | Meals: B

Day 4: Bangkok - Chiang Rai

This morning you will transfer to Bangkok airport for your onward flight to Chiang Rai. On arrival into Chiang Rai, you will be met and privately transferred to your resort. The day is yours to enjoy at leisure, and you may like to take advantage of the included resort activities:

- Walk with elephants in their habitat and observe their way of life. Watch them play in the pond and wander through grasslands.
- Take a longtail boat ride on the Mekong River to the point where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos meet. Hop on a local songtaew taxi for a ride around town, then take a tuk tuk to visit a vibrant local market and Chedi Luang temple.

Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle | Meals: BD

Day 5: Chiang Rai

Today is yours to explore or relax as it suits you. Take advantage of the many resort amenities and activities on offer, or embark on a self-guided exploration of Chiang Rai.

Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle | Meals: BLD

Day 6: Chiang Rai - Chiang Mai

This morning you'll admire the charming country scenes as you travel by road to your hotel in Chiang Mai. En route, make a stop at Wat Rong Khun, or the "White Temple", known for its 'kanok' architectural style. Inside, drink in the eclectic mix of Buddhist images and 21st century iconography that adorn the walls.

On arrival at your hotel, the rest of the day is at your leisure.

137 Pillars House / Meals: B

Day 7: Chiang Mai

Today, uncover the richness of northern Thai culture as you explore Chiang Mai's historical landmarks and discover the legacy of the Lanna kingdom. Pass through the 13th-century red-brick gate and step back in time as you admire ancient artefacts, architectural marvels and historical icons. Stop by a busy marketplace for a taste of local specialties such as mouthwatering khao soi – northern Thailand's signature noodle dish served with a delicious coconut-based soup.

137 Pillars House / Meals: BL

Day 8: Depart Chiang Mai

Today transfer to the airport for your flight to Bangkok for your onward flight.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

COMO Metropolitan Bangkok



Lying in the beating heart of Thailand's colourful capital, COMO Metropolitan Bangkok is the perfect place to explore the vibrant attractions from the floating market to the Grand Palace and ubiquitous food stalls. The stylish hotel, situated between Chao Phraya River and Sukhumvit District, also acts as an urban escape from the bustle of city life.

Stay in one of the luxury hotel's contemporary rooms with interiors by Singaporean designer. Kathryn Kng combines influences from East and West. Simple white walls and dark wood create an air of calm in each room, which also features mosaic-tile and limestone bathrooms.

You can choose from City Rooms to the larger Studio Rooms and Metropolitan Rooms, which have cosy king-size beds. Take in the cool evening air when you select a Terrace Suite complete with private patio and refreshing outdoor rain shower.

Dine in style at the Michelin-starred restaurant *naam*, headed by chef Pim Techamuanvivit, where you can indulge in the finest Thai cuisine. Book one of the private dining rooms for a special occasion or poolside table. *Glow*, beside the spa, provides an organic offering of snacks, smoothies and all-day dining.

After a day exploring the city, or playing a round of golf at Thai Country

Club, retreat to the sanctuary of COMO Shambhala Urban Escape. Enjoy a treatment or take a dip in the 25-metre lap pool or work out in the well-equipped gym.

Why we like it

- Book a Terrace Suite and enjoy a private patio and refreshing outdoor rain shower
- Eat the best Thai cuisine in the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant
- Enjoy a round of golf at the Thai Country Club, voted as one of the finest courses in Thailand and Asia
- Relax with a treatment at COMO Shambhala Urban Escape

Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle



Reached by river boat through a dense forest of bamboo, the Four Seasons Golden Triangle Tented Camp comes with a sense of adventure and style in an intimate tropical setting. There are just 15 luxurious tents, each designed as an open space with a large outdoor deck. Furnishings are handcrafted in styles reminiscent of 19th century expeditions, right down to the hand-beaten copper bathtubs. The resort is perfect for active adults seeking once-in-a-lifetime adventure – from bonding with the resort's friendly elephants to Golden Triangle excursions and Mekong cruises. Don't miss the stilt top bar for sundowners by the river and blissful Asian spa rituals in the open-air salas.

Sip cocktails at Burma Bar as the sun sets over the jungle, dine on regional cuisine at Nong Yao Restaurant and partake of the daily wine and cheese-tasting, private candlelit dinners or riverside picnics.

Why we like it

- Tucked away in the exotic jungle of Chiang Rai province
- Breezy luxurious tents decorated in a vintage safari style
- Intimate and attentive service for a maximum of 51 guests
- All-inclusive of transfers, meals, wines and spirits, elephant trekking and spa treatment

137 Pillars House



Situated amongst a beautiful tropical setting in northern Thailand, 137 Pillars House is a boutique hotel that displays many of its original architectural charms and old world elegance. With just 30 suites, it's easy to escape the stresses of daily life and immerse yourself into a tropical haven for ultimate relaxation. The Rajah Brooke Suite, East Borneo Suite, William Bain Terrace Suite and Louis Leonowens Pool Suite all boast large amounts of space with cosy King beds, lavish free standing Victorian bath tubs and both indoor and outdoor showers within their own private gardens. Taste the gastronomic delicacies of traditional Thai cuisine at the magnificent Dining Room or the intimate Palette Restaurant. As the sun sets head to the historic sophistication of Jack Bain's bar to sip on classic cocktails and premium whiskeys. Your memories of 137 Pillars House will stay with you long after you leave.

Why we like it

- Luxury boutique hotel exuding old-world charm and jungle chic in the northern city of Chiang Mai
- Situated near the Mae Ping River and close to many cultural attractions, such as Wat Gate and Nimmanhaemin Road
- Originally built in 1889, the building still retains many of its characteristic architectural heritage features
- A cosy environment, with just 30 suites, contemporary in décor with modern comforts
- Two quality restaurants offer unique exquisite cuisine using fresh organic ingredients, while the Parlor Lounge serves up a scrumptious high noon tea in a classic style

Abercrombie & Kent

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