

CLASSIC THAILAND

HIGHLIGHTS

- VIBRANT BANGKOK
- ELEPHANTS AND HILL-TRIBES
- BEAUTIFUL BEACHES OF PHUKET

Thailand is a country of exquisite natural beauty, tropical jungles, winding lazy rivers and beautiful mountain scenery will greet you as you arrive at each new place on this 13 day A&K journey. Discover the cultural heritage of Bangkok with its temples and palaces, visit colourful hill-tribes and learn the art of elephant taming in the north, before relaxing on the beaches of Phuket.

DAY 1

London/Bangkok

Depart from Heathrow to begin your journey to Bangkok, where you will be transferred to the Mandarin Oriental Hotel for a three night stay. The hotel is the epitome of contemporary luxury and



rich history. Its 393 newly renovated rooms and suites retain the colonial elegance that has been a feature of this hotel for more than 130 years. It is the perfect base from which to explore the temples, palaces, museums and cultural centres of Bangkok.

DAY 2

Bangkok

This morning your A&K guide will accompany you to the spectacular Grand Palace and Emerald Buddha - one of the most sacred sites in the

whole of Thailand. Enjoy an afternoon exploring this colourful city, perhaps with a visit to the 17th century Wat Pho, Jim Thompson's house, the markets of Chinatown or take a longtailed boat to Thonburi to observe canal life.

DAY 3

Bangkok/Kanchanaburi/Bangkok

After breakfast, drive to Kanchanaburi, where the Khwae Noi and Khwae Yai rivers merge, for a full day of sightseeing including the famous location of 'Bridge over the River Kwai'. The events of the



1940s are remembered in the beautifully maintained Kanchanaburi War Cemetery containing the graves of 6,982 prisoners of war, and the Jeath War Museum, a curious little museum built to resemble a POW camp. You may also like to take the train across the bridge and up to Nam Tok station at the end of the line.

DAY 4

Bangkok/Chiang Rai

After an early breakfast, fly from Bangkok to Chiang Rai where you will stay at the Anantara Resort & Spa

Golden Triangle. Perched on a ridge, amidst 160 acres of tropical jungle overlooking the winding Mekong River, Anantara is a luxury retreat surrounded by outstanding natural beauty. Settle into your room before an afternoon visit to the riverside town of Chiang Saen, the Opium Museum and a relaxing boat trip on the Khong River.

DAY 5

Chiang Rai

Start the day with a spectacular view from your hotel of the northern Thai

sunrise shrouded in mountain mist. After breakfast, drive to Mae Sai on the border with Myanmar, the most northerly town in Thailand and continue through beautiful mountain scenery to Doi Mae Salong. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before visiting one of the hill-tribe villages of the Akha, Lahu or the Hmong, located in a region of thick forests and mountainous terrain. ►



THE A&K DIFFERENCE With our leading reputation and rigorous selection policy, we employ the very best guides who ensure you acquire real insight into their culture and country. Our experienced team of experts, both in the UK and locally, are on hand to provide comprehensive support and ensure complete peace of mind. They anticipate individual needs and provide those extra little touches that make the difference between a good and an exceptional holiday, such as meeting you at the airport, private transfers in air-conditioned vehicles and a ready supply of chilled bottled water. With their unique contacts they can arrange special access to individuals, places and experiences not ordinarily available.

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DAY 6

Chiang Rai/Chiang Mai

Transfer to Chiang Mai (a drive of around four hours), stopping for lunch at a local restaurant en route, checking in to the Four Seasons Resort for three nights. The spacious Lanna-style pavilions overlook terraced rice fields and mountains in the beautiful Mae Rim Valley, minutes from the artistic and cultural heritage of Thailand's northern capital. After settling in and perhaps relaxing by the infinity spa pool, you may like to take an evening visit to the vibrant night bazaar.



DAY 7

Chiang Mai

This morning explore the city of Chiang Mai with a rickshaw ride to the temple of Wat Phra Singh in the old town, continuing on to the north's most holy shrine, the beautiful Wat Doi Suthep, which dominates the hillside in the west of the city. The rest of the day is yours to explore the city at your leisure, perhaps wandering around the old city walls.

DAY 8

Chiang Mai

Visit the Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden, a renowned centre for research into

Thai flora. Continue on to the Elephant Camp Training Centre for an exclusive private training lesson with a mahout and become an honorary mahout to these gentle giants. Have lunch at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel with the rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 9

Chiang Mai/Phuket

Transfer to the airport for an early afternoon flight to Phuket. On arrival, check in to the Anantara Phuket Hotel for four nights. Sitting between sun-blessed beaches and verdant hills, the hotel is just steps away from the turquoise

waters of the Andaman Sea. Its villas echo southern Thai villages, with locally inspired architecture to complement their indigenous garden setting. Open spaces and private pools take advantage of the cool sea breeze, whilst stylish interiors embrace contemporary Thai design, using local prints, textiles and paintings in relaxed lounge spaces.

DAY 10

Phuket

Explore Phuket Town this morning with your private guide, wandering the viewpoints and waterfalls of the island's unseen hinterlands. The rest of the day



is free to enjoy as you wish, perhaps with a spa treatment and a magnificent Margarita in the hotel's fabulous Treehouse Bar.

DAY 11

Phuket

Spend today on a luxury yacht cruise through enchanting Phang Nga Bay, admiring its dramatic limestone rock formations stretching up from the water. Arrive at 'James Bond Island'

and board a longtail boat to visit the Sea Gypsy village, Mangrove Delta and Grotto Cave. Return to the yacht to enjoy lunch on-board before an afternoon of swimming or sunbathing, cruising back to Phuket Island in the late afternoon.

DAY 12

Phuket

An entire day to explore or relax as you choose. You may like to visit the

hotel's Sea.Fire.Salt restaurant to feast on freshly grilled seafood, enhanced to perfection by the suggestions from the resident salt sommelier.

DAY 13

Phuket/Bangkok/London

Transfer to the airport for your homeward flight, via Bangkok. Alternatively you may like to extend your stay by the beach or travel onto Indo-China.

With A&K all journeys are individually tailored to suit your interests and timescale. As a guideline, this 13 day Thailand journey will cost from £4,565 per person based on two adults sharing with flights from the UK, subject to availability. *Please bear in mind this is not a prescriptive itinerary but a suggestion to give you a taste of what is possible with the very highest level of comfort, service and convenience. Accordingly, we aim to quote to a standard as opposed to a price.*

Please call **0845 0700 615** to speak to an expert or visit www.bercrombiekent.co.uk