

## THAILAND ADVENTURE 12 DAYS SAMPLE ITINERARY GREAT FOR THE FAMILY

Photo by Judy Vos

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL BANGKOK - HALF DAY BIKING "JUNGLE OF BANGKOK" (Join in with other people)

Upon arrival, meet your guide for private transfer to your hotel in Bangkok for overnight.

Afternoon, escape the enormous expanse of Bangkok's urban jungle and travel back in time on an old-fashioned method of transport, a bicycle. Begin your 25km ride in downtown Bangkok before breaking out of the cosmopolitan hustle and bustle by ferry. Cross the vast, slowly meandering beauty of the Chao Phraya River where the heavily developed neighbourhoods fall away almost immediately. Unwind as you pedal through an older image of Thailand amongst the local waterways and patches of jungle wilderness. Enjoy the comparative tranquility as you pass through quaint little villages. Soak up the heavenly combination of monks' chants combined with the aroma of incense smoke as you pass local temples. Cap off your day with a visit to a 250 year old Ayutthaya period temple with a sweeping teak roof. Soak up the sights and sensations of a local floating market before heading back to the city centre.



### DAY 2: BANGKOK – RIVER KWAI – HINTOK RIVER CAMP (Joint activities with others)

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

After breakfast, depart to Kanchanaburi province (128 km west of Bangkok)

Visit the Thailand-Burma Railway Centre, an interactive museum and research facility dedicated to the history of the Thailand-Burma Railway. The fully air-conditioned center offers the visitor an educational and moving experience. Visit the Allied War Cemetery, resting-place for more than 6,000 Allied prisoners of war. Visit the world-famous Bridge over the River Kwai, a part of Death Railway constructed by Allied POWs. Midday arrival at Hin Tok River Camp, check-in and lunch.

Afternoon visit to the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum which is dedicated to Australians, other Allied Prisoners of War and Asian labourers who suffered and died at Hellfire Pass and elsewhere in the Asia Pacific region during WW II. Trek along the Hellfire Pass Walking Trails and return to Hin Tok River Camp late afternoon for a mountain bike visit to a village or farm nearby.

Dinner and overnight at Hin Tok River Camp. Spend 2 nights here.



*Hin tok River Camp (Flickr, Kathy)*

### **DAY 3: SAIYOKE YAI WATERFALL – LAVA CAVE – COOKING CLASS (Joint activities with others)**

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

After breakfast, board a long-tail boat upstream to the great Sai Yok Yai Waterfall & National Park, famed for its beautiful surroundings. Return to Hin Tok River Camp for lunch before exploring Lava Cave, the region's largest and most famous cave, designed by nature with stalactites and stalagmites in many unique formations. The cave is home to the world's smallest bat, the Khun Kitti. End your day with a Thai cooking class and delicious dinner in these incredible natural surroundings.

### **DAY 4: HINTOK RIVER CAMP – MON VILLAGE – DEATH RAILWAY (Joint activities with others) EVENING OVERNIGHT TRAIN TO CHIANG MAI**

*Breakfast, Lunch*

Early morning bike ride across a suspension bridge to a local temple, through morning fog, breathing fresh oxygen and rejuvenating your mind for the day. Offer food to the monks before returning to camp for breakfast. Check out and take a long-tail boat to the headquarters of River Kwai Jungle Rafts, where you will take a raft and float on the River Kwai to visit the traditional Mon Tribal Village and the Mon people.

Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before taking a historic ride on the Death Railway Train, passing over original wooden viaducts constructed by Allied Prisoners of War during World War II. Enjoy breathtaking scenery and exhilarating turns on this spectacular route. Return to Bangkok where you will board an overnight train to Chiang Mai (1<sup>st</sup> class with individual cabins for 2 people, communal toilet.) 19h35 – 09h35 the next day. There is a restaurant car on the train for dinner and breakfast.

### **DAY 5: CHIANG MAI HALF DAY CITY TOUR - BIKING**

*No meals included on this day*

Upon arrival in Chiang Mai, meet your guide at Chiang Mai Railway Station for private transfer to your hotel.

Your private half day city tour includes a visit to **Wat Chedi Luang**, a Lanna-style temple which was once the tallest structure in ancient Chiang Mai. At **Wat Phra Singh** temple, see the impressive array of Lanna artwork and ancient Buddhist literature. On to the **Three Kings Monument** honouring King Mengrai (who established Chiang Mai), before riding up to a **local market** for some bargaining with the locals. Lunch available here.

Crossing the Ping River on your bikes, a visit to **Wat Gate Khar Rham Museum** awaits, where you can wander among ancient artifacts including coins, farm tools, and royal Lanna costumes.

Own dinner at hotel or local restaurant. Overnight in Chiang Mai.



Wat Phra Singh temple (Flickr, Alpha)

## **DAY 6: CHIANG MAI - LISU LODGE (Join with other guests for activities at Lisu Lodge.)**

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Enjoy a day of both nature and culture in the beautiful Mae Taeng district, just an hour's drive away. Head into the rural terrain along a nature trail with an abundance of flora and fauna: this gentle hike takes around 1 ½ to 2 hours to reach the tribal village of Huay Pong, where the locals are happy to welcome you. After a picnic lunch, head to a nearby rafting camp, where you can pump up your adrenaline with private white-water rafting along the Mae Taeng River, or take it easy in a leisurely bamboo float.

Transfer to Lisu Lodge for evening and overnight. This hotel is part of a community-based project to conserve the natural heritage of the hill tribes in Chiang Mai. Upon arrival at Lisu Lodge, you will be welcomed with a refreshing traditional drink and a walk around the village, stopping at Ton Lung temple to see a herbal garden and visit the home of the village shaman. Visit the local cultural centre, where you will find a collection of typical household items and tools used by Lisu & Akha hill tribes, before enjoying an incredible dinner accompanied by a folk dance performance.

## **DAY 7: LISU LODGE – MAE KAMPONG HOME STAY**

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Enjoy a morning at Lisu Lodge, where you may join a guided cycling tour around Lisu village or an oxcart ride through the farmland, or simply relax with a steam bath and a traditional massage.

After a delicious Thai lunch, transfer to Mae Kampong Home Stay for one night. Located in a beautiful mountain village only about an hour's drive from Chiang Mai, this home stay will feel like home, as you learn about local life and traditions, while surrounded by lush verdant forest, mountains, streams and beautiful waterfalls. Get to know more about tea and coffee plantations and spend time making products such as fermented tea leaf woven cotton clothes. Enjoy local activities with the villagers. **(Private)**

## **DAY 8: FLIGHT OF THE GIBBON – RETURN TO HOTEL IN CHIANG MAI**

**(Private transfer, join other guests for activities)**

*Breakfast, Lunch*

Take to the skies and into the jungles of Northern Thailand. Located in a 1500 year old rainforest near the quaint village of Mae Kampong, the \*Flight of the Gibbon is your chance to zipline over the forest canopy - just like the wild monkeys who call this place home. While you might not spot one of the Gibbons, on most days you can hear them, making your flight up to 70 metres above the ground all the more exotic. Chiang Mai's Flight of the Gibbon has a total of 33 stations with over seven kilometers of cables in total; one of the single 'flights' is 800 meters, making it the longest of its type in the whole of Asia.

After the forest fun, enjoy a delicious lunch followed by tea tasting. On the way back, take some time to stop off at an eco-mountain village, and cool off in a refreshing hillside waterfall before arriving back in Chiang Mai in the afternoon.



*Flight of the Gibbon (Flickr, Clark H)*

Experience a fascinating glimpse into the local traditions and life of mountain villagers. See how their work and daily life has remained unchanged for over 100 years. Nestled over 1,000 meters above sea level in a lush tropical rain forest, the village thrives on the sustainable collection of spices and medicinal plants, as well as organic farming. See how the villagers use the forest products to make scented and medicinal creams and teas. Learn about their unique use of fermented teas and see traditional basket weaving.

Own dinner at the hotel or local restaurant; discuss with your guide.  
Spend the next two nights in Chiang Mai.

*Please note:*

- \* *Guests must be at least 30kg and no more than 130kg.*
- \* *Suggested clothes: long pants, T-shirt or polo shirt, sports shoes that will not drop off easily.*
- \* *Available for sunrise tour only (pick up time 06h30) - including village artisan tour*

## **DAY 9: CHIANG MAI – FULL DAY DOI IMTHANON NATIONAL PARK (Private)**

*Breakfast, Lunch*

Escape the hustle and bustle of Chiang Mai and travel by van to Doi Inthanon National Park. Spend the day walking through the lush green wilderness around Thailand's highest mountain as you breathe in the fresh air - an invigorating respite from Chiang Mai's urban jungle. Climb up Doi Inthanon and marvel at the surrounding panorama of trees blanketing the rolling mountain range. Visit a hill tribe village and splash in the mountain's sparkling waterfall before enjoying a local lunch at the misty summit.

Return to your hotel. Free for dinner this evening.

## **DAY 10: DEPARTURE**

*Breakfast*

Private transfer to the airport for onward flight connection.

**RATES ON REQUEST – WE CAN CUSTOMIZE TO SUIT INTERESTS AND TIME AVAILABLE**

**CUSTOM TOURING**  
*Dare to Dream*

*in association with*

**Pannell's  
Tours**

[www.customtouring.com](http://www.customtouring.com) T: +27 44 535 9842 M: +27 83 287 9912 E: [frontdesk@customtouring.com](mailto:frontdesk@customtouring.com)